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PREVALENCE AND CONSEQUENCES OF CRIME IN ALBERTA OVER THE
LAST TEN YEARS

BY

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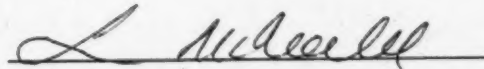
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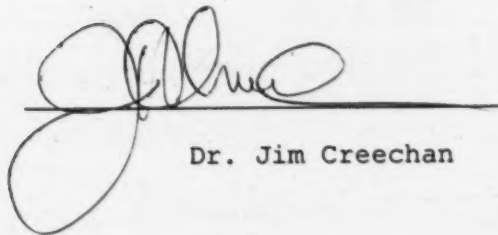
The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for acceptance, a thesis entitled Prevalence and Consequences of Crime in Alberta Over the Last Ten Years submitted by Linda Foti in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Education in Special Education.



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Abstract

Violence and crime are prevalent and pervasive problems in today's society. Previous research has examined reported and unreported crime rates across Canada (Hendrick, 1996), as well as injuries victims suffered as a result of crime (Ammerman & Hersen, 1990). The current study has examined the incidence of crime for 1206 persons sampled within the Province of Alberta with specific reference to factors including place and type of residence, gender, age, income, education, marital status, and disability status. Many socio-demographic variables including place of residence, age, and marital status were found to significantly affect the rate of crime participants experienced. Age was the only socio-demographic variable shown to be related to whether crime was reported to police. Place of residence and gender were the only variables shown to be related to the consequences of crime. New findings related to disability status and the reporting and consequences of crime were also discussed.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Violence and crime are prevalent and pervasive problems in today's society. The majority of current research has examined the incidence of criminal behaviour across Canada as well as factors that may increase the risk of criminal victimization (Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Ogrodnik, 1994). Research has also examined factors that influence whether a crime is reported to the police as well as physical and psychological consequences that victims experienced due to violent crime (Hendrick, 1996). Little research has focused on the reporting frequency and consequences of non-violent crime. Additionally, research also needs to examine the incidence, reporting, and consequences of crime at the Provincial level. There are also important risk factors for victimization that have largely been ignored, including whether a victim has a disability. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the incidence of crime and violence within the Province of Alberta with specific reference to factors including gender, age, level of income, level of education, and marital status. The current study also examined if having a disability increased the risk of being a victim of crime. The consequences of crime including if a persons was

harmful or acquired a disability as a result of crime as well as factors that influenced whether a crime was reported to the police was also examined.

The second chapter provides a discussion of previous research in the area of crime within Canada as well as a review of research pertaining to crime, abuse and persons with disabilities. The third chapter outlines the methodology and procedures used in the current study and the fourth chapter discusses all results. Chapter five presents a discussion of major findings as well as limitations of the current study and implications for future research.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

Incidence of Reported and Unreported Crime in Canada

The majority of research regarding the incidence and prevalence of crime in Canada has been conducted annually by Statistics Canada and published in the Juristat Service Bulletin. Statistics Canada, however, has focused on a limited set of variables and types of crimes to explain the risk of victimization in today's society. These variables have included gender, age, place of residence, income, education, marital status, and lifestyle. Variables such as disability status have largely been ignored. The types of crimes that Statistics Canada has traditionally focused on have included sexual and non-sexual assault, manslaughter, homicide, robbery, attempted robbery, break and enter, motor vehicle theft, theft of personal and household property, and vandalism. The current study will focus on overall crime with specific reference to property crime including break and enter, fraud, and vandalism, as well as violent crimes that involved physical force, harm, or the threat of harm.

Statistics Canada conducted nation-wide surveys of victimization in 1988, 1993, and 1995. According to current information, the risk of victimization for all types of

crime has not increased since the initial surveys were completed in 1988 (Gartner & Doob, 1994). Within Canada in 1995, there were 2.7 million crimes reported to the police and 247,426 of these reported crimes occurred in the Province of Alberta. The overall official Canadian crime rate has decreased by 13.1% since 1991 (Hendrick, 1996). The majority of crime committed in 1995 was property crime (58%) followed by other crime (30%) which included prostitution, arson, and mischief. The smallest percentage of crime was violent crime (11%) which included homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, and robbery (Gartner & Doob, 1994; Hendrick, 1996). Common assault (assault or threat of assault that does not cause bodily injury) was the most prevalent violent crime and occurred in 6 out of 10 violent crimes (Hendrick, 1996; Kingsley, 1993). Police surveys have also indicated that the reported level of crime in Canada has decreased for the fourth consecutive year from 1991 to 1995 (Hendrick, 1996). The most notable decreases occurred in the Province of Alberta where violent crime decreased by 3.5% and property crime decreased by 4.0% (Hendrick, 1996). Additional information from Edmonton and Calgary showed that both cities experienced decreases in the level of violent crime, although Calgary showed a much larger decrease than

Edmonton. Calgary exhibited an 11.0% decrease in reported violent crime over the last year whereas Edmonton exhibited only a 4.2% decrease in reported violent crime. Both Calgary and Edmonton also experienced decreases in the rate of reported property crime over the last year (7.6% and 5.4% decrease respectively) (Hendrick, 1996, 1995).

Research concerning reported crime rates do not accurately reflect the incidence of crime that actually occurs within a given population. Surveys of reported crime rates only consider crime known to the police. Surveys that examine victimization rates can provide a more accurate picture of actual crime as these surveys include both reported and unreported crime (Hendrick, 1995). Data from victimization surveys showed that the highest level of crime was evident in the Maritime Provinces and decreased toward the Western Provinces, with the lowest rate of crime in the Yukon and North West Territories (Hendrick, 1996). Information is still needed to quantify these levels of crimes and determine the extent that crime remains unreported.

Reporting of Crime in Canada

Overall, only 40% of all crimes are reported to police officials. It is estimated that 90% of sexual assault and 68% of non-sexual assault are not reported to

the police (Hendrick, 1996, 1995). Research also suggests that 70% of break and enter crimes and 57% of motor vehicle theft is reported to police whereas only approximately 30% of assault and 32% of robbery offenses are reported (Johnson, 1996).

Since 1988, the rate of reporting crime to the police has increased (Gartner & Doob, 1994). Today's society is believed to be less tolerant of family and sexual violence and therefore more willing to report criminal incidences (Hendrick, 1996). There have also been many legislative changes that have affected the number of crimes reported. For instance, police no longer need to witness an assault in order to arrest a potential perpetrator (Hendrick, 1996). These factors may have contributed to the larger number of crimes reported to police.

Socio-demographic factors have also been shown to influence whether or not a crime is reported. Previous research has shown that crimes in urban areas are more likely reported than crimes in rural areas, perhaps due to the fact that police are more visible and accessible in urban areas. Research has also indicated that household crime is more likely to be reported than violent crime. This is likely related to the victim's need for official police reports to claim stolen property with their

insurance agents. Incidents involving older adults have also been shown to be reported to police more often than incidents involving younger persons (Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Johnson, 1996).

Other factors that influence whether a crime is reported include the seriousness of the crime, fear of retaliation or revenge, ability of the police to help, whether the incident was too personal, or whether the victim wishes to receive police protection or insurance benefits (Hendrick, 1996). The most common reason for not reporting a crime to the police is that the incident was seen as too minor and that the police were seen as too powerless to help (Hendrick, 1996, 1995).

Consequences of Crime in Canada

Crime can have many serious physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences (Ammerman & Hersen, 1990; Buchanan & Oliver, 1977; Geffner & Pagelow, 1990; Marin & Morycz, 1990). Unfortunately, many crimes are not reported to police, therefore the extent of harm due to crime is difficult to ascertain. According to previous research, violent crimes often did not result in any physical injury. In 1993, only 6% of victims received major injuries, 43% received minor injuries, and 38% were uninjured as a result of violent crime. The injuries of the remaining 13% were

unknown (Gartner & Doob, 1994).

A victim was defined as injured if the injury resulted in the victim's inability to continue on with a main daily activity for a period no longer than one day. A main daily activity was defined as an activity that a person engaged in on a daily basis such as work and/or family life. A small proportion of injuries resulted in a loss of daily function for a period of more than 10 days. In 1995, violent crime injuries resulted in a person having difficulty carrying on with their main daily activity for one day in 6% of victims, for 2 to 3 days in 8% of victims, and for more than 4 days in 10% of victims (Hendrick, 1996). Additional research indicated that the majority of major injuries resulted from sexual assault (38%), assault (34%), robbery (20%), and other crimes (36%) (Hendrick, 1995). The limitations of this data were that the documentation and examination of any permanent or long-term disability as a result of violent crime was not addressed (Hendrick, 1995; Ogrodnik, 1994; Wright 1995).

Although many victims received minor injuries, few were reported to have sought the appropriate medical attention (Hendrick, 1995). This may be related to the fact that most victims were not strangers to their assailants and may have feared reporting the crime to the police. As

well, many criminal incidences did not involve the use of a weapon and were therefore relatively minor and may only have required immediate first aid. According to 1994 statistics, 88% of injures did not require medical attention or first aid, 12% required some medical attention, and 1% of injuries were fatal (Hendrick, 1996).

Risk of Victimization and Consequences of Crime in Canada

The risk of criminal victimization has been shown to depend on several factors. According to Hendrick (1996, 1995) and Ogrodnik (1994) variables including age, gender, marital status, and lifestyle influence the risk of violent crime while income, education, occupation, and place of residence influence the risk of property and household crime. The above variables are examined in detail concerning the risk of victimization and the consequences victims experienced as a result of crime.

Gender. According to Hendrick (1996), half of all crime victims were women. This suggests that men and women did not differ in the number of crimes that they experienced. Differences, however, were found regarding the types of crimes that were committed against men and women (Hendrick, 1996). Three quarters of women had been victims of criminal harassment and women had experienced more sexual and minor assault than men. Men, however, had

experienced a higher rate of robbery and serious assault that caused injury or death. Additionally, men were twice as likely as females to be robbed, murdered or sustain major or fatal injuries as a result of crime. Despite this, women were still shown to be victims of violent crime more often than men. This may be explained by the higher incidence of sexual assault among women compared to men (Chard, 1995; Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Integration and Analysis Program, 1996; Johnson, 1996).

In terms of the consequences of crime, men were less likely to experience a loss of daily function due to crime than women. Twelve percent of men compared to 27% of women reported a difficulty in performing their main daily activity (work or family responsibility). This is likely related to the types of crimes that were perpetrated against men and women. Women were more likely to be sexually assaulted and men were more likely to be robbed or murdered, therefore women tended to sustain more serious and debilitating injuries that they had to learn to live with (Hendrick, 1995).

Age. Younger persons have been shown to represent more than half of all crime victims. Persons aged 15 to 24 were shown to have twice the risk of personal victimization than that of persons aged 25 to 44 and four times the risk of

victimization than that of persons aged 45 to 64. In terms of violent victimization, persons aged 15 to 24 were shown to have five times the risk of victimization than that of persons aged 45 to 64. Therefore, younger persons tended to experience more crime than older persons and a rapid decrease in the rate of crime with increasing age was evident. This was especially true for victims of sexual assault, since the majority of victims were found to be very young females. However, sexual as well as non-sexual assault against women aged 18 to 24 was still found to be three times the national average. Therefore, young women tended experience more crime than other members of society (Chard, 1995; Gartner & Doob, 1994; Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Johnson, 1996; Ogrodnik, 1994).

Place of Residence. The majority of research showed that persons living in urban areas experienced more violent and property crime than persons living in rural areas. According to Hendrick (1995), 27% of urban dwellers and 17% of rural dwellers were victims of crime in 1994. Additionally, urban dwellers experienced 44% more personal crime and 67% more household or property crime than rural dwellers.

According to Hendrick (1996), urban males experienced 24% more personal crime than rural males and urban females

experienced 47% more personal crime than rural females in 1995. Therefore, persons living in urban areas were more at risk of victimization than persons living in rural areas and females living in urban areas were at more risk of victimization than males living in urban areas. This result, however, has not been shown to be consistent across all age groups. Persons ages 15 to 24 living in rural areas tended to experience more crime than the same aged persons in urban areas. This result may have been affected by the fact that younger persons living in rural areas engaged in more evening activities than persons living in urban areas. One limitation with this finding is that the location of the crime was not considered. For example, a person living in a rural area may have been victimized in an urban area, yet their information still qualified as a rural victimization (Chard, 1995; Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Kong, 1994; Ogrodnik, 1994; Wright, 1995). Thus, younger people living in rural areas may have been traveling to urban areas for recreational activities and may have been experiencing more victimization during these times.

Type of Residence. Type of residence referred to the type of dwelling that the person resided in, for example, apartment, semi-detached home, or owned verses rented dwellings. Property and household crime (especially break

and enter) were found to be higher for persons who rented their residence than for persons who owned their residence. Property and household crime was also shown to be higher for persons living in semi-detached, row, or duplex homes compared to persons living in single or detached homes (Hendrick, 1996; Wright, 1995).

Level of Income. Income plays a significant role in the incidence and prevalence of personal theft and household victimization. Theft has been shown to increase as the level of income of the victim increases and violent crime has been shown to decrease as the income level of the victim increases. Therefore, persons with a higher level of income (more than \$60,000 per year) experienced the most amount of property crime and those with incomes less than \$15,000 per year experienced the highest level of violent crime. Overall, persons living below the poverty level experienced 70% more violent crime than persons living at higher income levels (Gartner & Doob, 1994; Hendrick, 1996; Integration and Analysis Program, 1996; Kong, 1994; Wright, 1995).

Level of Education. Level of education has been shown to be directly related to level of income such that as education increased, the level of income was likely to increase. Therefore, as the level of education increases,

the risk of violent victimization likely decreases.

Previous research has found that violent victimization was lower and property crime was higher for persons with higher levels of education. Thus, persons with little post-secondary education experienced the highest levels of personal or violent victimization and persons with a post-graduate degree experienced the highest levels of personal and household theft (Gartner & Doob, 1994; Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Integration and Analysis Program, 1996; Kong, 1994).

Occupation. Different occupations and employment objectives have not been directly analyzed in most research. One major distinction that has been made by previous research is that students experienced the highest amount of crime compared to homemakers who experienced the lowest amount of crime. This can be directly related to other variables including age, lifestyle, place of residence, and income (Gartner & Doob, 1994; Hendrick, 1996; Integration and Analysis Program, 1996). Students tended to have lower levels of income and spend more time engaging in evening activities compared to homemakers, thus increasing their risk of criminal victimization.

Marital Status. Previous research has shown that persons who were single, separated, or divorced had three times higher risk of criminal victimization than persons

who were married or living in common-law relationships. The highest rate of crime was for single males and separated or divorced females. Married males and females had an equal risk of being a victim of crime. Divorced or separated women had two and a half times the risk of criminal victimization than that of divorced or separated males and seven times the risk of criminal victimization compared to married men and married women (Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Ogrodnik, 1994; Wright, 1995).

Lifestyle. Lifestyle, in the majority of surveys, referred to the number of evening activities that a person engaged in as well as the amount of alcohol consumed during a given month. The results indicated that as the number of evening activities increased, the risk of victimization increased. This was true for both men and women. As the amount of alcohol consumed in a month increased, the risk of victimization also increased. Students and young single persons generally tended to drink more alcohol and engaged in more evening activities than older and married persons, and this factor may account for the increased risk of victimization for students and young persons (Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Integration and Analysis Program, 1996; Wright, 1995).

Disability and Crime

Very little research has examined the relationship between disability and criminal victimization among adults. Most research has focussed on abuse of children with disabilities (Baladerian, 1991; Diamond & Jaudes, 1983; Glaser & Bentovim, 1979; Hewitt, 1989; Jaudes & Diamond, 1985; Sobsey, Randall, & Parrila, 1997; Solomons, 1979; and Verdugo, Bermejo, & Fuertes, 1995), and abuse of persons with disabilities within residential or institutional settings (Ammerman, Van Hasselt, Hersen, McGonigle, & Lubetsky, 1989; Buchanan & Oliver, 1977; Carmen, Rieker, & Mills, 1984; Jacobson, 1989; Jacobson & Richardson, 1987;).

Children with disabilities are at an increased risk of abuse and neglect. A study by Diamond and Jaudes (1983) showed that one third of children diagnosed with cerebral palsy were abused or neglected by their caregiver. Sixty-five percent of these abused children were severely neglected or abandoned, and 35% were sexually abused, battered, or burned. The study also indicated that 9.3% of the children in the study were diagnosed with cerebral palsy following being abused or battered.

A study by Baladerian (1991) revealed that children with disabilities were 4 to 10 times more likely to be abused than children without disabilities. The study

reported that 25% of girls and 20% of boys with disabilities were sexually abused prior to the age of 18 years and only 20% of cases were ever reported to the police. Related to this finding, a study by Sobsey et al. (1997) found that all children with disabilities, regardless of gender, were at a higher risk of all types of abuse. It was shown, however, that more boys with disabilities were abused than girls, which may be related to the fact that more boys have disabilities that are identified. Sobsey et al. (1997) also found that boys were more likely to be neglected or physically assaulted, whereas girls were more often victims of sexual or emotional abuse.

Glaser and Bentovim (1979) examined the type of abuse against children who were handicapped or terminally ill. It was found that the majority of children with handicaps suffered from moderate to severe abuse compared to children without handicaps who suffered from more milder forms of abuse. It was also found that children without handicaps suffered from physical abuse whereas children with handicaps were more likely to be neglected, abandoned, or deprived of appropriate care. A study by Sobsey (1994) also found that children with disabilities were more likely to experience chronic, severe, and prolonged abuse compared to

children without disabilities.

A study by Benedict, White, Wulff, and Hall (1990) found a relationship between severity of disability and abuse. They found that children with severe disabilities were more likely to be abused than children with mild disabilities. This result was expanded in a study by Verdugo et al. (1995) that found that for children who were less severely handicapped, the risk of abuse decreased as the child increased in age.

Children with severe disabilities as well as children with multiple disabilities have been shown to be at an increased risk of abuse. Ammerman et al. (1989) conducted a study involving 150 children with multiple handicaps in a psychiatric hospital. Thirty-nine percent of the children had a history of maltreatment of which 69% were physically abused, 45% were neglected, and 36% were sexually abused. Many of the children who were abused (52%) experienced multiple forms of abuse over prolonged periods of time.

Victimization against adults with disabilities has not been widely researched. Research has shown that adult persons with disabilities are often perceived negatively in society. They are often viewed and treated as inferior, incompetent, or incapable of "normal" functioning. They are often rejected or segregated and this may play a role in

the increased risk of violence against persons with disabling conditions. Persons with disabilities are a minority within society and like other minorities, are extremely vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and crime (Lyons, 1991; Sobsey & Doe, 1991; Waxman, 1991).

An article by Sobsey (1993) found that adult persons with disabilities were estimated to be 2 to 5 times more likely to be victims of violent crime. A study by Moreau, as cited in Hewitt (1989), found that 80% of persons with disabilities living in the community were physically or sexually assaulted, robbed, or cheated.

Women with disabilities have also been shown to be at increased risk of crime and abuse within society. A study by Womendez and Schneiderman (1991) examined the abuse of women with disabilities. They found that women with disabilities were sexually assaulted and battered more often than women without disabilities. They concluded that women with disabilities had lower self-esteem and self-worth leaving them more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Women with disabilities were often viewed as "easy targets" since many lacked the social supports and resources to protect themselves. A candid example is the almost non-existence of shelters for abused women that are wheelchair accessible. Therefore, few shelters can accommodate the

needs of women with disabilities and their children escaping abusive situations (Gill, 1996; Sobsey & Doe, 1991).

A study by Mayer and Brenner (1993) found that persons with hearing or visual disabilities were also at risk of being a victim of crime or abuse. They found that 50% of women who were legally blind had experienced at least one incident of unwanted or forced sexual contact. They also found that 50% of teenagers at a residential school for the deaf had been sexually abused as children.

Persons with disabilities are more at risk of victimization for many reasons. They often are more dependent on others for direct care and therefore may lack the physical or intellectual ability to protect themselves or to avoid compromising situations, especially during daily hygiene routines. They may have limited speech to report being victimized or abused or to allow others to detect the abuse. Given these risk factors and society's beliefs concerning persons with disabilities, it is not surprising that they are more susceptible to abuse and violence in society (Cole, 1984-6; Garbarino, 1987; Lyons, 1991; Sobsey, 1994, 1997; Sobsey & Doe, 1991; Waxman, 1991).

Research has indicated that physical and sexual abuse

of children can result in a victim acquiring a physical or intellectual disability (Buchanan & Oliver, 1977; Caplan & Dinardo, 1986; Cohen & Warren, 1987; Diamond & Jaudes, 1985). It was not possible to find current research that examined the number of adult persons who sustained a disability as a result of a criminal victimization not including abuse or neglect.

A problem within this area of research is the issue of cause and effect. It is difficult to determine whether the abuse caused the disability or whether the disability led to the abuse. It is also difficult to determine whether persons with disabilities are more at risk of abuse or whether abuse increases the risk of disability. Research has shown that abused children suffer neurological damage (Green, Voeller, Gaines, & Kubie, 1981) as well as delays in physical, intellectual, and emotional development (Augoustinos, 1987). Abuse has also been targeted as a potential cause of cerebral palsy in as many as 12.5% of children (Cohen & Warren, 1987; Diamond & Jaudes, 1983; Sterfeld (1977) as cited in Cohen & Warren, 1987). Additionally, a study by Buchanan and Oliver (1977) found that 3% of children in their sample suffered assaults as infants that led to severe and profound mental retardation. The current study will examine those persons with existing

disabilities and their experience with crime, as well as persons who acquired a disabling condition as a result of criminal victimization.

Research examining violence-induced disabilities indicates that most abuse that results in long-term or permanent disability was not reported. It was also evident that for persons with disabilities who were abused, the majority of the abuse was not reported (Sobsey, 1994). Little current research exists that examines the number of crimes reported, not including abuse or neglect, for persons with disabilities.

For persons with disabilities, the reasons for not reporting abuse often depended on the severity of the disability, the environment where the abuse occurred, and the type and severity of the abuse itself (Sobsey, 1994). As mentioned previously, persons with severe disabilities are often dependent on others for basic care, and therefore may be reluctant to report abuse, especially if the abuser is their primary caregiver. Also, persons with disabilities may lack the communication abilities to report abuse or crime committed against them (Garbarino, 1987; Sobsey, 1994).

Abuse within institutional settings has also been documented to be very frequent (Ammerman, Van Hasselt,

Hersen, McGonigle, & Lubetsky, 1989; Jacobson & Richardson, 1987). Persons in institutional care may be less likely to report abuse since there are few avenues to do so within hospitalized settings and many persons lack the communication abilities to act against persons in power or authority positions who are abusing them.

A study by Doucette (1986), as cited in Nosek (1996), found that women with disabilities were more likely to be abused than non-disabled women and of those who were abused, less than half reported the crime. Fifty-five percent of victims did not seek assistance and only 10% used existing shelters and social services. Of most importance, 15% of victims sought help but no services were available to assist them. Similarly, a study by Gill (1996) found that women with disabilities often could not use existing shelters since these shelters did not accommodate persons with physical, cognitive, or sensory limitations. More research is needed to examine how disability affects the reporting of crime. Additionally, research is needed that will lead to services to help persons with disabilities who are victims of crime or abuse.

Summary

The overall crime rate within Canada has decreased over the last four consecutive years (Hendrick, 1996). Despite this decrease, crime is still a prevalent and pervasive problem for many people in today's society. Some persons are more at risk of being victims of crime than other persons. Previous research suggests that young, single, separated, or divorced women living in urban areas were persons most at risk of violent and personal victimization. Persons with lower levels of education and lower income levels were most susceptible to violent crime and persons with higher income and educational levels were most susceptible to household and property victimization. Persons who engaged in many evening activities, especially students, and persons who have a disability were also more at risk of criminal victimization.

Most violent crimes did not result in any physical or long-term injury, however long-term disability as a result of crime still needs to be examined. Most injury resulted from sexual assault therefore women were also more likely to be injured since they were more often victims of these types of crimes.

It is evident that a large portion of violent crime as well as property crime remains unreported. It is estimated

that as much as 90% of sexual assault remains unreported. Given that women were more likely to be victims of sexual assault, it is plausible that women were also less likely to report violent crime. Additionally, research has shown that crimes in urban areas and crimes against older adults were more likely to be reported than crimes involving younger adults in rural areas.

Persons who sustained long-term disability as a result of abuse, especially persons with disabilities, were shown to be less likely to report the incident. Persons who are abused, however, may fear reporting the crime, especially if the victim knows the perpetrator and if the abuse had been sustained over a long period of time. Violent crime, however, differs in some aspects since the crime may have been a single incident that involved a stranger. Violent crime that results in long-term disability or harm has received little research attention, however it is possible that crime that caused harm or disability would be reported more often.

Rationale

The purpose of the current study is to examine the incidence of crime in the Province of Alberta over the last 10 years. The frequency of overall crime (all types of criminal offenses), property crime, and violent crime will be examined within a sampled population residing in Edmonton, Calgary, and the remainder of Alberta. Specific rates for crimes such as sexual discrimination, assault, vandalism, fraud, theft, and break and enter will be presented. Crime rates will also be examined in relation to socio-demographic variables including area of Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary, or other areas of Alberta), place of residence (urban or rural), gender, age, type of residence (owned or rented), level of income, level of education, marital status, and disability status.

In addition to analyses of the incidence of crime, the current study will examine the rate that crime is reported to the police and the types of crimes that are more often reported. This study will also examine socio-demographic factors that may influence whether a crime is subsequently reported.

Lastly, the current study will examine the consequences that victims experience as a result of violent crime. These consequences include long-term or permanent

disability and feelings of harm as a result of violent crime. The relationship between these consequences and whether the crime is subsequently reported will be examined as well as the relationship between these consequences and socio-demographic variables.

Hypotheses

Hypotheses involving the incidence, consequences, and reporting of crime will be examined first followed by hypotheses based on socio-demographic variables.

Incidence of Crime

Hypothesis #1. Property crime will occur more often than violent crime.

Reporting of Crime

Hypothesis #2. Property crime will be reported more often than violent crime.

Consequences and the Reporting of Crime

Hypothesis #3. Persons who sustained a long-term or permanent disability or felt harmed as a result of a violent crime will be more likely to report the crime to the police.

Socio-Demographic Information and Crime

Area of Alberta

Hypothesis #4. Overall, violent, and property crime rates in Edmonton will be higher than overall, violent, and property crime rates in Calgary and other areas of Alberta.

Place of ResidenceHypothesis #5.

Persons living in urban areas will experience more overall, violent, and property crime than persons living in rural areas.

Hypothesis #6.

Persons living in urban areas will be more likely to report violent and property crimes than persons living in rural areas.

GenderHypothesis #7.

Men and women will experience a similar rate of overall and property crime, however women will experience a higher rate of violent crime than men.

Hypothesis #8

Women will be less likely to report violent crime to the police than men.

Hypothesis #9

Women will more likely be harmed or permanently disabled as a result of violent crime than men.

AgeHypothesis #10.

As age increases, the rate of overall, violent, and property crime will decrease.

Hypothesis #11.

Older persons will be more likely to report violent and property crimes than younger persons.

Hypothesis #12.

Persons living in rural areas who had been victims of overall, violent, and property crime will be younger than persons living in urban areas who had been victims of overall, violent, and property crime.

Type of ResidenceHypothesis #13.

Persons living in rented residences will experience a higher rate of property crime than persons who own their residences.

Level of IncomeHypothesis #14.

As the level of income increases, the incidence of property crime will increase and the incidence of violent crime will decrease.

Level of EducationHypothesis #15.

Persons with higher levels of education will experience less overall and violent crime and more property crime than persons with lower levels of education.

Marital StatusHypothesis #16.

Persons who are single or separated/divorced will experience more overall, violent, and property crime than persons who are married/living in a common-law relationship, or widowed.

Disability StatusHypothesis #17.

Persons with disabilities will experience more overall, violent and property crime than persons without disabilities.

In addition to the above hypotheses, frequency information will be provided regarding the frequency of specific crimes, the incidence of persons harmed as a result of crime, and the rate of violent and property crime reported. Additionally, the reporting and consequences of violent and property crime will be analyzed in relation to

area of Alberta, type of residence (owned verses rented), level of income, level of education, marital status, and disability status. The relationship between type of residence and overall and violent crime and the relationship between specific disabilities and victimization will also be examined.

Chapter 3

Methodology and Procedures

Participants

Participants were 1206 adult persons (597 males [49.5%] and 609 females [50.5%]) randomly selected from households throughout the Province of Alberta. All information was collected directly from the participants during a telephone survey conducted in 1996 and 1997 by the University of Alberta's Population Research laboratory (Department of Sociology). The survey was conducted for the Abuse and Disability Project of the J.P. Das Developmental Disabilities Center. All participants were required to be 18 years of age or older in order to participate in the survey and the ages of participants ranged from 18 years to 90 years with a mean age of 41.7 years ($SD = 15.82$).

Recruitment of Participants

Participants were recruited from the City of Edmonton (33.3%), the City of Calgary (33.4%) and the remainder of the Province of Alberta (33.3%). All persons over the age of 18 living in Alberta were eligible for contact by phone during the time of the survey. A random-digit dialing approach was used to ensure that all respondents within Alberta had an equal chance of being contacted for the survey. Nursing homes and other collective dwellings were

not included in the sample. Once the household was contacted, one person was chosen as the respondent for the telephone interview based on gender. The following selection process was used to ensure an equal selection of male and female participants since past surveys showed that the initial contact with households was usually with a female participant.

In order to be eligible, the following criteria were followed:

- a) The participant must be a usual resident of the household and he/she must be 18 years of age or older;
- b) If a male person answered the phone and was willing to complete the survey, he was the participant;
- c) If a female person answered the phone and there was a male person willing to complete the survey, the male respondent was the participant;
- d) If a female persons answered the phone and there was no male available or a male respondent was unwilling to complete the survey, the female was the participant.

Materials

The survey instrument was divided into three separate sections. The first section consisted of a survey introduction. This is provided as Appendix A. The second section consisted of questions related to the specific

research interest of the University researchers including 27 questions related to crime and victimization. These 27 questions are included as Appendix B. The third section consisted of 15 socio-demographic questions, which are included as Appendix C.

Reliability and Validity of Measures

Interviewers were hired and trained by the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta. Interviewers were supervised during the data collection by a research facilitator at the University of Alberta. Well-trained interviewers pretested the survey on 49 randomly selected households within the city of Edmonton. Modifications were made to the survey questions based on interviewer comments, inadequate response categories, confusing wording of questions, and question order effects. Questions based on socio-demographic information were compiled from previous Alberta Survey questionnaires. Based on this pretest procedure, the survey questions were deemed to have adequate face and content validity. The telephone survey was used only once for each participant, therefore information concerning reliability of the survey was not tested. Future researchers in this area need to develop methods to ensure that responses by participants are reliable and accurate. A possible method could be to re-

contact a random sample of the participants and re-administer parts of the survey to ensure responses are consistent and stable over time.

The University Research Ethics Committee considered all questions and surveys ethically suitable to be used with the general public. Several participants were unable to respond for several reasons including refusals, language barriers, not home, or incomplete surveys. The overall response rate for the survey was 62% (38% of those contacted refused to participate in the survey).

Procedure

Data collection was facilitated by the use of an electronic questionnaire (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing System - CATI) that randomly generated telephone numbers to different interviewing stations. The survey was presented on a computer screen, and the interviewers were required to enter the responses directly into the computer database. The majority of collection occurred during evening and weekend hours. If the interviewers were unable to contact the household, they were required to attempt contact for a minimum of 15 callbacks prior to discarding the number. Upon initial contact, the interviewer identified him/herself, verified the correct phone number and then began with the screening

questions used to select the participant. All participants were informed that their participation was voluntary, that information would remain confidential, and that the interview could be terminated at any time.

During the course of the survey, participants were asked if they had been a victim of crime in the last 10 years. If the participant stated no, they were not asked any additional questions about crime in more recent years. Their responses for questions concerning crime in the last five, two, and previous years were therefore labeled not applicable. Due to the large number of not applicable responses for several questions, not applicable responses were then recoded as no responses, since if the participant had not been victimized in the last 10 years, they were also not victimized in the last 5, 2, or previous year. This procedure increased the number of valid responses per question.

Participants were also asked if they had been victims of specific crimes including sexual harassment, assault, vandalism, fraud, theft, harassment, break and enter, hit and run, and child abduction. These crimes were classified as crimes against the person or crimes against property because very few persons were victims of these individual crimes. Crimes against the person included sexual

harassment, assault, harassment, hit and run, and child abduction since these crimes did or could have involved injury to another person. Crimes against property included vandalism, fraud, theft, and break and enter.

Socio-demographic variables were collected from all participants. Several variables were classified into smaller and more manageable categories. Income was grouped into categories as specified by Revenue Canada. Marital status was grouped into four categories including never married, married/common-law, separated/divorced, and widowed. Education was classified to include both complete and incomplete education at the major levels, namely elementary, junior high school, high school, non-university (college or technical school), university, and post-graduate education.

The following section provides detailed analyses of results based on the above mentioned survey.

Chapter 4

Results

Given the low rate of overall crime within the Province of Alberta, fewer participants stated they were a victim of crime in the past 5, 2, or previous year than those who stated they were a victim of crime in the last 10 years. Due to the small number of persons who were recent victims of crimes, the current analyses focus on crime that occurred in the last 10 years. The majority of available data concerning crime and socio-demographic factors are categorical in nature. For this reason, most statistical procedures involved chi-square analyses. An alpha level of .05 was used for all statistical analyses.

Socio-demographic information was collected from each participant. This information is important in explaining and supporting any results related to socio-demographic information. A complete description of all socio-demographic variables and their inter-relationships is provided followed by a discussion of hypotheses related to the incidence of crime, reporting of crime and consequences of crime. Analyses of the proposed hypotheses related to socio-demographic information are then provided including discussions of incidence, reporting, and consequences of crime where appropriate.

Socio-Demographic Information

Area of Alberta

A total of 1206 participants were sampled and of these, 402 participants were recruited from Edmonton (33.3%), 403 from Calgary (33.4%) and 401 from other areas of Alberta (33.3%). Table 1 illustrates the distribution of participants' residence status in relation to gender, age, place of residence (urban verses rural), type of residence (owned or rented), level of income, level of education, marital status, and disability status.

As shown in Table 1, males and females of all ages in the sample were equally distributed across all areas of Alberta. Disability status was also found to be equally distributed across the Province of Alberta. The majority of persons sampled across all areas of Alberta were between the ages of 25 and 49 and fewer persons were between the ages of 18 and 24 or over the age of 65. The majority of persons sampled across all areas of Alberta owned their home and earned incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999 per year. Participants in Edmonton were represented more often in the under \$14,000 per year income group (34.1%) compared to Calgary (29.0%) and other areas of Alberta (28.2%). Participants in Edmonton were also represented less often in the over \$60,000 per year income group (6.7%) compared

Table 1

Area of Alberta by Gender, Age, Place of Residence, Type of Residence, Income, Education, Marital Status, and Disability Status

Area of Alberta	Edmonton <u>n</u> (%) % Edmonton	Calgary <u>n</u> (%) % Calgary	Other <u>n</u> (%) % Other
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	202 (16.8) 50.1	197 (16.3) 49.0	198 (16.4) 49.4
Female	201 (16.7) 49.9	205 (17.0) 51.0	203 (16.8) 50.6
<u>Age</u>			
18-24	72 (5.8) 17.9	60 (5.0) 14.9	35 (2.9) 8.7
25-49	229 (19.0) 57.0	231 (19.2) 57.3	243 (20.2) 60.6
50-64	58 (4.8) 14.4	66 (5.5) 16.4	77 (6.4) 19.2
Over 65	43 (3.6) 10.7	46 (3.8) 11.4	46 (3.8) 11.5
<u>Place of Residence</u>			
Urban	402 (33.3) 100.0	403 (33.4) 100.0	0 (0.0) 0.0
Rural	0 (0.0) 0.0	0 (0.0) 0.0	401 (33.3) 100.0
<u>Type of Residence</u>			
Owned	239 (20.1) 60.5	276 (23.2) 69.3	312 (26.2) 78.8
Rented	156 (13.1) 39.5	122 (10.3) 30.7	84 (7.1) 21.2

Income

Under \$14,000	117 (11.6)	93 (9.2)	97 (9.6)
	34.1	29.0	28.2
\$14,000 to \$29,999	87 (8.6)	81 (8.0)	82 (8.1)
	25.4	25.2	23.8
\$30,000 to \$59,999	116 (11.5)	105 (10.5)	117 (11.6)
	33.8	32.7	34.0
Over \$60,000	23 (2.3)	42 (4.2)	48 (4.8)
	6.7	13.1	14.0

Education

Elementary	3 (0.2)	0 (0.1)	4 (0.3)
	0.7	0.0	1.0
Junior High	12 (1.0)	12 (1.0)	28 (2.3)
	3.0	3.0	7.0
High School	118 (9.8)	98 (8.2)	136 (11.3)
	29.5	24.4	34.0
Non-University	132 (11.0)	132 (11.0)	150 (12.5)
	33.0	32.9	37.5
University	114 (9.5)	138 (11.5)	73 (6.1)
	28.5	34.4	18.2
Post-Graduate	21 (1.7)	21 (1.7)	9 (0.8)
	5.3	5.3	2.3

Marital Status

Never Married	119 (9.9)	100 (8.4)	54 (4.5)
	29.9	25.1	13.5
Married/Common-law	212 (17.7)	240 (20.1)	285 (23.8)
	53.3	60.2	71.2
Divorced/Separated	49 (4.1)	39 (3.2)	32 (2.7)
	12.3	9.8	8.0
Widowed	18 (1.5)	20 (1.7)	29 (2.4)
	4.5	5.0	7.3

Disability Status

Disabled	46 (3.8)	36 (3.0)	33 (2.8)
	11.5	9.0	8.3
Non-Disabled	355 (29.5)	366 (30.4)	367 (30.5)
	88.5	91.0	91.7

to persons sampled living in Calgary (13.1%) and other areas of Alberta (13.9%). More respondents living in Calgary had attended University (34.3%) than respondents living in Edmonton (28.3%) and other areas of Alberta (18.2%). The majority of persons sampled across all areas of Alberta were married or living in common-law relationships followed by single or never married participants and fewer persons sampled were divorced or widowed.

Place of Residence

Persons living in Edmonton and Calgary were classified as persons living in urban areas, whereas persons living in other areas of Alberta were classified as persons living in rural areas. Of the 1206 participants, 805 were urban residents (66.7%) and 401 were rural residents (33.3%). Table 2 illustrates the distribution of place of residence in relation to gender, age, type of residence (owned or rented), level of income, level of education, marital status, and disability status.

Table 2 shows that males and females sampled were equally distributed across urban and rural areas of Alberta. Similar to Table 1, the majority of the sample across urban and rural areas were between the ages of 25 and 49, earned incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999 per

Table 2

Place of Residence by Gender, Age, Type of Residence,
Income, Education, Marital Status, and Disability Status

Place of Residence	Urban n (%) % Urban	Rural n (%) % Rural
<u>Gender</u>		
Male	339 (33.1) 45.5	198 (16.4) 49.4
Female	406 (33.7) 54.5	203 (16.8) 50.6
<u>Age</u>		
18-24	132 (10.9) 16.4	35 (2.9) 8.7
25-49	460 (38.1) 57.1	243 (20.2) 60.6
50-64	124 (10.3) 15.4	77 (6.4) 19.2
Over 65	89 (7.4) 11.1	46 (3.8) 11.5
<u>Type of Residence</u>		
Owned	515 (43.3) 64.9	312 (26.2) 78.8
Rented	278 (23.4) 35.1	84 (7.1) 21.2
<u>Income</u>		
Under \$14,000	210 (20.8) 31.6	97 (9.6) 28.2
\$14,000 to \$29,999	168 (16.7) 25.3	82 (8.1) 23.8
\$30,000 to \$59,999	221 (21.9) 33.3	117 (11.6) 34.1
Over \$60,000	65 (6.5) 9.8	48 (4.8) 13.9

Education

Elementary	4 (0.3)	4 (0.3)
	0.5	1.0
Junior High	24 (2.0)	28 (2.3)
	3.0	7.0
High School	216 (18.0)	136 (11.3)
	27.0	34.0
Non-University	264 (22.0)	150 (12.5)
	32.9	37.5
University	252 (21.0)	73 (6.1)
	31.4	18.2
Post-Graduate	42 (3.5)	9 (0.7)
	5.2	2.3

Marital Status

Never Married	219 (18.3)	54 (4.5)
	27.5	13.5
Married/Common-law	452 (37.7)	285 (23.8)
	56.7	71.2
Divorced/Separated	88 (7.4)	32 (2.7)
	11.0	8.0
Widowed	38 (3.2)	29 (2.4)
	4.8	7.3

Disability Status

Disabled	82 (6.8)	33 (2.8)
	10.2	8.3
Non-Disabled	721 (59.9)	367 (30.5)
	89.9	91.7

year, were married, and owned their own home. Additionally, a large percentage of persons sampled living in urban areas had completed university (31.4%), or post-graduate (5.2%) education compared to persons sampled living in rural areas of Alberta (18.2% of persons in rural areas completed university and 2.3% had completed post-graduate work). Slightly more persons sampled living in urban areas stated they had a disability (10.2%) compared to persons sampled living in rural areas who stated they had a disability (8.3%).

Gender

Participants were 597 males (49.5%) and 609 females (50.5%). Table 3 illustrates the distribution of males and females across age, type of residence (owned or rented), level of income, level of education, marital status, and disability status.

As shown in Table 3, the majority of both males and females in the sample were between the ages of 25 and 49 (58.8% were male and 58.7% were female) and the majority of males (67.8%) and females (71.2%) owned their homes. In terms of level of income, more females in the sample were represented in lower income groups (46.5% had incomes under \$14,000 per year and 2.6% had incomes over \$60,000 per year) and more males sampled were represented in higher

Table 3

Gender by Age, Type of Residence, Income, Education,
Marital Status, and Disability Status

Gender	Male	Female
	$\frac{n}{\%}$ (%) % of Males	$\frac{n}{\%}$ (%) % of Females
<u>Age</u>		
18-24	94 (7.8) 15.7	73 (6.0) 12.0
25-49	351 (29.1) 58.8	352 (29.2) 58.7
50-64	99 (8.2) 16.6	102 (8.5) 17.0
Over 65	53 (4.4) 8.9	82 (6.8) 13.5
<u>Type of Residence</u>		
Owned	399 (33.6) 67.8	428 (35.9) 71.2
Rented	189 (15.9) 32.2	173 (14.6) 28.8
<u>Income</u>		
Under \$14,000	78 (7.8) 15.1	229 (22.7) 46.5
\$14,000 to \$29,999	107 (10.6) 20.8	143 (14.2) 29.0
\$30,000 to \$59,999	230 (22.8) 44.7	108 (10.7) 21.9
Over \$60,000	100 (9.9) 19.4	13 (1.3) 2.6

Education

Elementary	4 (0.3)	4 (0.3)
	0.7	0.7
Junior High	28 (2.3)	24 (2.0)
	4.7	4.0
High School	169 (14.1)	183 (15.2)
	28.4	30.1
Non-University	206 (17.2)	208 (17.4)
	34.6	34.2
University	159 (13.2)	166 (13.8)
	26.7	27.3
Post-Graduate	29 (2.4)	22 (1.8)
	4.9	3.6

Marital Status

Never Married	160 (13.4)	113 (9.5)
	27.0	18.7
Married / Common-law	357 (29.8)	380 (31.7)
	60.3	62.8
Divorced / Separated	58 (4.8)	62 (5.2)
	9.8	10.2
Widowed	17 (1.4)	50 (4.2)
	2.9	8.3

Disability Status

Disabled	46 (3.8)	69 (5.8)
	7.7	11.3
Non-Disabled	550 (45.7)	538 (44.7)
	92.3	88.7

income groups (44.7% had incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999 per year and 19.4% had incomes over \$60,000 per year). In regard to level of education, both male and female respondents were equally represented across all education groups. In terms of marital status, the majority of both male and female participants were married, however, more males tended to be never married (27.0%) compared to females (18.7%) and more females tended to be widowed (8.3%) compared to males (2.9%). More females sampled (11.3%) stated they had a disability compared to males sampled (7.7%).

Age

Participants were between the ages of 18 and 90 with a mean age of 41.7 years ($SD = 15.82$). The age of 11 participants was not determined. Participants were divided into four age groups to assist in the description of the sample. These age groups consisted of persons aged 18 to 24 ($n = 167$, 13.8%), persons aged 25 to 49 ($n = 703$, 58.3%), persons aged 50 to 64 ($n = 201$, 16.7%) and persons over the age of 65 ($n = 135$, 11.2%).

Table 4 illustrates the distribution of age in terms of type of residence (owned or rented), level of income, level of education, marital status, and disability status. As shown in Table 4, more participants between the ages of

Table 4

Age by Type of Residence, Income, Education, Marital
Status, and Disability Status

Age	18-24 <u>n</u> (%) % Age	25-49 <u>n</u> (%) % Age	50-64 <u>n</u> (%) % Age	Over 65 <u>n</u> (%) % Age
<u>Type of Residence</u>				
Owned	78 (6.6) 47.6	483 (40.6) 69.6	164 (13.8) 82.0	102 (8.6) 77.8
Rented	86 (7.2) 52.4	211 (17.8) 30.4	36 (3.0) 18.0	29 (2.4) 22.2
<u>Income</u>				
Under \$14,000	75 (7.4) 50.3	152 (15.0) 24.9	48 (4.8) 30.0	32 (3.2) 35.6
\$14,000 to \$29,999	52 (5.2) 34.9	126 (12.4) 20.7	36 (3.6) 22.5	36 (3.6) 40.0
\$30,000 to \$59,999	18 (1.8) 12.1	247 (24.5) 40.6	53 (5.3) 33.1	20 (2.0) 22.2
Over \$60,000	4 (0.4) 2.7	84 (8.3) 13.8	23 (2.3) 14.4	2 (0.2) 2.2
<u>Education</u>				
Elementary	0 (0.0) 0.0	1 (0.1) 0.1	5 (0.4) 2.5	2 (0.2) 1.5
Junior High	1 (0.1) 0.6	8 (0.7) 1.1	12 (0.9) 6.0	31 (2.6) 23.2
High School	51 (4.2) 30.5	198 (16.5) 28.3	59 (4.9) 29.5	44 (3.7) 32.8
Non-University	56 (4.6) 33.5	262 (21.8) 37.4	60 (5.0) 30.0	36 (3.0) 26.9
University	57 (4.7) 34.2	201 (16.7) 28.7	49 (4.1) 24.5	18 (1.5) 13.4
Post-Graduate	2 (0.2) 1.2	31 (2.6) 4.4	15 (1.2) 7.5	3 (0.3) 2.2

Marital Status

Never Married	120 (10.0) 72.3	129 (10.8) 18.5	16 (1.3) 8.0	8 (0.7) 5.9
Married/Common-law	42 (3.5) 25.3	479 (40.0) 68.7	148 (12.4) 74.4	68 (5.7) 50.4
Divorced/Separated	4 (0.3) 2.4	81 (6.8) 11.6	23 (1.9) 11.6	12 (1.0) 8.9
Widowed	0 (0.0) 0.0	8 (0.7) 1.2	12 (1.0) 6.0	47 (3.9) 34.8

Disability Status

Disabled	8 (0.7) 4.8	49 (4.1) 7.0	28 (2.3) 14.0	30 (2.5) 22.2
Non-Disabled	159 (13.2) 98.2	652 (54.2) 93.0	172 (14.3) 86.0	105 (8.7) 77.8

50 and 64 and over the age of 65 owned their home (82.0% and 77.8 % respectively) compared to participants between the ages of 18 and 24 who owned their home (47.6%). As expected, the majority of persons sampled between the ages of 18 and 24 and persons sampled over the age of 65 earned incomes under \$14,000 per year (50.3% and 35.6% respectively) and persons sampled between the ages of 25 and 64 were represented more often in the \$30,000 to \$59,999 income group. In terms of education, younger participants tended to have higher levels of education compared to older participants.

In regards to marital status, persons in the sample over age 65 tended to be widowed (34.8%) whereas persons in the sample between the ages of 18 and 24 tended to be never married (72.3%). In relation to disability status, few participants between the ages of 18 to 24 (4.8%) stated that they had a disability and a larger percentage of participants over the age of 65 (22.2%) stated that they had a disability.

Type of Residence

Information was gathered concerning whether participants owned or rented the dwellings in which they resided. The majority of participants owned their own home ($n = 827$, 68.8%) compared to persons who rented their place

of residence ($n = 362$, 30.0%). The type of dwelling for 17 (1.4%) persons in the sample was not determined.

Table 5 shows the relationship between type of residence and level of income, level of education, marital status, and disability status. Table 5 illustrates that the majority of persons sampled who owned their home had incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999 per year, and the majority of persons sampled who rented their home had incomes under \$14,000 per year. Additionally, more persons sampled who owned their home earned incomes over \$60,000 per year (13.7%) compared to persons who rented their home (6.1% earned incomes over \$60,000 per year). Table 5 also shows that slightly more participants who owned their home completed university (27.5%) or a post-graduate degree (4.6%) compared to participants who rented their home (26.2% and 3.3% respectively). In terms of marital status, 71.1% of persons sampled who owned their home were married or in a common-law relationship compared to 39.7% of persons sampled who rented their home. In regard to disability status, of respondents who owned their home, 8.7% stated they had a disability and of respondents who rented their home, 11.9% stated they had a disability.

Level of Income

Information concerning the total individual income of

Table 5

Type of Residence by Income, Education, Marital Status, and Disability Status

Type of Residence	Own n (%) % Own	Rent n (%) % Rent
<u>Income</u>		
Under \$14,000	191 (19.1) 27.8	110 (11.0) 34.9
\$14,000 to \$29,999	163 (16.3) 23.8	87 (8.7) 27.6
\$30,000 to \$59,999	238 (23.7) 34.7	99 (9.9) 31.4
Over \$60,000	94 (9.4) 13.7	19 (1.9) 6.1
<u>Education</u>		
Elementary	6 (0.5) 0.7	2 (0.2) 0.6
Junior High	39 (3.3) 4.7	13 (1.1) 3.4
High School	235 (19.8) 28.5	112 (9.4) 31.0
Non-University	281 (23.6) 34.0	128 (10.8) 35.4
University	227 (19.1) 27.5	95 (8.0) 26.3
Post-Graduate	38 (3.2) 4.6	12 (1.0) 3.3
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Never Married	139 (11.7) 16.9	129 (10.9) 35.8
Married/Common-law	585 (49.5) 71.1	143 (12.1) 39.7
Divorced/Separated	52 (4.4) 6.3	68 (5.7) 18.9
Widowed	47 (4.0) 5.7	20 (1.7) 5.6

Disability Status

Disabled	72 (6.1)	43 (3.6)
	8.7	11.9
Non-Disabled	754 (63.5)	319 (26.8)
	91.3	88.1

all the participants (before taxes and deductions) was collected. Income ranged from under \$6,000 per year to over \$100,000 per year. Income was categorized into four groups based upon the categorization used by Revenue Canada. These groups consisted of under \$14,000 ($n = 307$, 25.5%), \$14,000 to \$29,999 ($n = 250$, 20.7%), \$30,000 to \$59,999 ($n = 338$, 28.0%), over \$60,000 ($n = 113$, 9.4%), and not determined ($n = 198$, 16.4%). Table 6 illustrates level of income in comparison to level of education, marital status, and disability status.

As shown in Table 6, persons sampled with incomes under \$14,000 per year tended to complete high-school (35.5%) or non-university (28.7%), and persons with incomes over \$60,000 per year tended to complete university (43.9%), non-university (42.9%), or post-graduate degree programs (11.0%). In regard to marital status, the majority of all participants were married, however more participants with incomes under \$14,000 per year and between \$14,000 and \$29,999 per year were never married (29.9% and 28.0% respectively) compared to persons with incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999 and incomes over \$60,000 who were never married (19.6% and 11.5% respectively). More respondents with incomes under \$14,000 per year stated they had a disability and the number of respondents with disabilities

Table 6

Level of Income by Education, Marital Status, and
Disability Status

Level of Income	Under \$14,000 n (%) % Income	\$14,000 to \$29,999 n (%) % Income	\$30,000 to \$59,999 n (%) % Income	Over \$60,000 n (%) % Income
<u>Education</u>				
Elementary	3 (0.3) 1.0	1 (0.1) 0.4	2 (0.2) 0.6	0 (0.0) 0.0
Junior High	14 (1.4) 4.5	14 (1.4) 5.6	9 (0.9) 2.7	1 (0.1) 1.1
High School	109 (10.8) 35.5	78 (7.7) 31.2	84 (8.3) 24.8	1 (0.1) 1.1
Non-University	88 (8.7) 28.7	94 (9.3) 37.6	128 (12.7) 37.9	39 (3.9) 42.9
University	85 (8.4) 27.7	54 (5.4) 21.6	99 (9.8) 29.3	40 (4.0) 43.9
Post-Graduate	8 (0.8) 2.6	9 (0.9) 3.6	16 (1.6) 4.7	10 (1.0) 11.0
<u>Marital Status</u>				
Never Married	91 (9.1) 29.9	70 (7.0) 28.0	66 (6.5) 19.6	13 (1.3) 11.5
Married/Common-law	183 (18.2) 60.2	127 (12.6) 50.8	214 (21.3) 63.5	83 (8.3) 73.4
Divorced/Separated	17 (17.1) 5.6	31 (3.1) 12.4	40 (4.0) 11.9	16 (1.6) 14.2
Widowed	13 (1.3) 4.3	22 (2.2) 8.8	17 (1.7) 5.0	1 (0.1) 0.9
<u>Disability Status</u>				
Disabled	46 (4.6) 15.0	17 (1.7) 6.8	24 (2.4) 7.1	3 (0.3) 2.6
Non-Disabled	260 (25.8) 85.0	233 (23.1) 93.2	314 (31.2) 92.9	110 (10.9) 97.4

decreased as the level of income increased.

Level of Education

Participants were asked to provide information concerning the highest level of education that was either started and not completed or started and completed. Level of education was divided into six groups which included elementary school (n = 8, 0.6%), junior high school (n = 52, 4.3%), high school (n = 352, 29.2%), non-university (college or technical school) (n = 414, 34.3%), university (n = 325, 26.9%), post-graduate (n = 51, 4.2%), and not determined (n = 4, 0.3%).

Table 7 illustrates level of education in relation to marital status and disability status. According to Table 7, the majority of all persons, regardless of level of education, were married or living in common-law relationships. In terms of disability status, few persons with disabilities had attended university (6.7%) or post-graduate programs (3.9%), although most had attended elementary school (25.0%), junior high school (26.9%), high school (10.2%), or a non-university program (9.7%).

Marital Status

Participants were divided into four groups depending on their marital status. These groups consisted of persons who were never married (n = 273, 22.6%), married or in a

Table 7

Level of Education by Marital Status, and Disability Status

Level of Education	Elementary $\frac{n}{\%}$ Educ	Junior High $\frac{n}{\%}$ Educ	High School $\frac{n}{\%}$ Educ	Non- University $\frac{n}{\%}$ Educ	University $\frac{n}{\%}$ Educ	Post- Grad $\frac{n}{\%}$ Educ
<u>Marital Status</u>						
Never Married	0 (0.0) 0.0	3 (0.2) 5.9	81 (6.8) 23.2	87 (7.3) 21.1	94 (7.9) 29.1	8 (0.7) 15.7
Married/Common-law	4 (0.3) 57.1	32 (2.7) 61.5	211 (17.7) 60.5	264 (22.1) 63.9	184 (15.4) 57.0	40 (3.3) 78.4
Divorced/Separated	2 (0.2) 28.6	2 (0.2) 3.8	36 (3.0) 10.3	46 (3.8) 11.1	31 (2.6) 9.6	3 (0.2) 5.9
Widowed	1 (0.1) 14.3	15 (1.2) 28.8	21 (1.8) 6.0	16 (1.2) 3.9	14 (1.2) 4.3	0 (0.0) 0.0
<u>Disability Status</u>						
Disabled	2 (0.2) 25.0	14 (1.2) 26.9	36 (3.0) 10.2	40 (3.3) 9.7	21 (1.7) 6.7	2 (0.2) 3.9
Non-Disabled	6 (0.5) 75.0	38 (3.2) 73.1	315 (26.2) 89.8	374 (31.1) 90.3	304 (25.3) 93.3	49 (4.1) 96.1

common-law relationship ($n = 737$, 61.1%), divorced or separated ($n = 120$, 9.9%), widowed ($n = 67$, 5.6%), and not determined ($n = 9$, 0.7%). In terms of the relationship between marital status and disability status, the majority of persons sampled with disabilities were widowed (26.8%) or divorced (26.8) and fewer persons sampled with disabilities were married (7.7%) or single (7.3%).

Disability Status

The majority of participants ($n = 1091$, 90.5%) stated that they did not have a disability or an impairment that would inhibit their ability to perform an activity that would be normal for most people. The remaining participants ($n = 112$, 9.2%) stated they did have a disability, or did not respond ($n = 3$, 0.2%). For the participants who stated they had a disability, the type of disability was divided into six categories and participants could be a member of more than one category. These categories included disabilities affecting mobility ($n = 74$, 66.1%), agility ($n = 73$, 65.2%), vision ($n = 31$, 27.7%), communication ($n = 19$, 17.0%), thinking ($n = 19$, 17.0%), and hearing ($n = 16$, 14.3%).

Incidence, Consequences, and Reporting of Crime in Alberta

The incidence of overall, violent, and property crime as well as the reporting and consequences of these crimes will



now be examined.

Incidence of Crime in Alberta

Rates of crime were grouped according to overall crime and violent crime within the last 10 years. In the last 10 years, 471 (39.1%) of persons sampled in the Province of Alberta were a victim of crime. Of those persons who were victims of overall crime, 124 (10.3%) were victims of violent crime. The incidence of property crime within the last 10 years was not available since participants were only asked if they were a victim of a property crime in the last 5 years. Thus, property crime in the last 5 years was examined. Of those persons sampled, 333 (27.6%) were victims of property crime in the last 5 years.

Participants were also asked if they were a victim of specific crimes including sexual discrimination, assault, break and enter, vandalism, fraud, theft, harassment, hit and run, and child abduction in the last 5 years. A total of 42 persons sampled (3.5%) had been a victim of one of the above crimes. In summary, 8 (19.0%) had been a victim of harassment or discrimination, 6 (14.3%) a victim of assault, 11 (26.2%) a victim of theft (including break and enter and child abduction), and 17 (40.5%) a victim of vandalism or fraud.

Hypothesis #1.

Property crime will occur more often than violent crime.

Data for the incidence of property crime for the last 10 years was not available therefore the incidence of property crime compared to violent crime in the last 5 years was analyzed. For persons sampled across all areas of Alberta who were victims of violent or property, 23.9% were victims of a property crime, 2.2% were victims of a violent crime and 3.7% were victims of both violent and property crime. Of the total sampled population, 70.2% were not victims of either violent or property crime. Upon comparison of only those participants victimized ($n = 360$), 80.0% were victims of property crime, 12.5% were victims of both property and violent crime, and 7.5% were victims of violent crime. In summary, the majority of crimes that participants experienced were property related.

Reporting of Crime in Alberta

The incidence of violent crime reported in the last 10 years, and the incidence of property crime reported in the last 5 years was determined. A total of 124 of the persons sampled stated they were victims of violent crime in the last 10 years. Of these persons, 85 (68.5%) reported the crime to the police and 39 (31.5%) did not report the crime. A total of 333 of the 1206 persons sampled stated

they were victims of a property crime in the last 5 years. Of these property crime victims, 278 (83.5%) reported the crime, 54 (16.2%) did not report the crime and 1 (0.3%) did not respond to the survey question.

Hypothesis #2. Property crime will be reported
more often than violent crime

The number of property crimes reported by participants in the last 5 years was compared to the number of violent crimes reported by participants in the last 10 years. Violent crime was reported in 12.9% of victims sampled and property crime was reported in 25.7% of victims sampled. Fifty-one percent of the victims sampled reported both property and violent crimes they experienced and 10.0% of the victims sampled did not report a violent or property crime to police. Upon comparison of only those victims sampled who reported crime ($n = 63$), 14.3% reported violent crime, 28.9% reported property crime, and 57.1% reported a crime involving both property and violent offenses. In summary, property crime was reported more often than violent crime, however the majority of crimes reported involved a property and a violent offense, which partially supported the above hypothesis.

Consequences of Crime in Alberta

Participants were asked if they were harmed in any way

as a result of violent crime. Of the 124 persons who reported that they were victims of violent crime, 75 (60.5%) stated they felt harmed and 49 (39.5%) stated they did not feel harmed as a result of the crime. In total, 6.2% of the entire sample stated they felt harmed as a result of violent crime.

Participants were also asked if they acquired any long-term or permanent physical, mental, or emotional disability as a result of the violent offense. Of the 124 persons sampled who were violently victimized, 27 (36.0%) stated they acquired a long-term or permanent disability whereas 48 (64.0%) stated they did not acquire any disabling condition as a result of a violent crime. In total, 2.2% of the entire sample stated they acquired a disability as a result of violent crime.

Consequences of Crime and the Reporting of Crime in Alberta

Hypothesis #3.

Persons who sustained a long-term or permanent disability or felt harmed as a result of a violent crime will be more likely to report the crime to the police.

Of the 27 persons who stated that they were permanently disabled as a result of violent crime, the majority (74.1%) reported the crime to the police. For

persons who did not acquire a disability as a result of crime, a smaller majority (62.5%) reported the crime to the police. The difference between the rate of violent crime reported in relation to acquired disability was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 75) = 1.042, p = .307$.

For persons sampled who stated they were harmed as a result of violent crime, the offence was reported to the police in 66.7% of cases. The rate of reporting crime was slightly higher for persons sampled who stated that they were not harmed (71.4%) as a result of violent crime. The difference between the rate of violent crime reported in relation to feelings of harm was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 124) = 0.312, p = .577$. Overall, the above hypothesis were not supported.

Socio-Demographic Information in Relation to Incidence,

Reporting, and Consequences of Crime

Area of Alberta

Hypothesis #4.

Overall, violent, and property crime rates in Edmonton will be higher than overall, violent, and property crime rates in Calgary and other areas of Alberta.

Overall, violent, and property crime rates within Edmonton, Calgary, and other areas of Alberta were

compared. The results indicated that persons sampled living in Edmonton experienced significantly more overall crime than persons sampled living in Calgary, and other areas of Alberta, $\chi^2(2, N = 1206) = 45.04, p < .001$. Forty-three and one half percent of overall crime reported occurred in Edmonton compared to 32.7% in Calgary and 23.8% in other areas of Alberta. Of the persons sampled in Edmonton, 51% stated that they were victims of crime in the last 10 years and of persons sampled in Calgary, 38.2% stated that they had experienced crime. Only 27.9% of persons sampled living in other areas of Alberta had experienced crime in the last 10 years.

In terms of violent crime, 47.6% of crime reported in the current study occurred in Edmonton compared to 33.1% in Calgary and 19.4% in other areas of Alberta. Of the persons sampled in Edmonton, 14.7% stated they were a victim of violent crime, and of persons sampled in Calgary, 10.2% stated they were a victim of violent crime in the last 10 years. Only 6.0% of persons sampled living in other areas of Alberta reported that they had experienced a violent crime in the last 10 years. In summary, persons sampled living in Edmonton and Calgary experienced significantly more violent crime than persons sampled living in other areas of Alberta, $\chi^2(2, N = 1205) = 16.55, p < .001$.

In terms of property crime, 41.7% of crime reported in the current study occurred in Edmonton compared to 33.0% in Calgary and 25.2% in other areas of Alberta. Of the persons sampled in Edmonton, 34.6% stated they were victims of property crime and 27.3% of persons sampled in Calgary and 20.9% of persons sampled in other areas of Alberta stated they experienced property victimization in the last 5 years. Persons sampled living in Edmonton experienced significantly more property crime than persons sampled living in Calgary and other areas of Alberta, $\chi^2 (2, N = 1206) = 18.68, p < .001$.

In summary, persons sampled living in Edmonton experienced 12.8% more overall crime, 4.5% more violent crime and 7.3% more property crime than persons sampled living in Calgary and 23.1% more overall crime, 8.7% more violent crime, and 13.7% more property crime than persons sampled living in other areas of Alberta.

Additional chi-square analyses were conducted to determine what areas of Alberta differed from each other in terms of overall, violent, and property crime and these results are presented in Table 8. Significantly more people in Edmonton (51.0%) reported experiencing overall crime than persons living in Calgary (38.2%) and other areas of Alberta (27.9%). Additionally, persons sampled living in

Table 8

Chi-square Results for Area of Alberta and Overall,
Violent, and Property Crime

	Chi-square Pearson Value	df	sig.
<u>Overall Crime</u>			
Edmonton vs Calgary	13.307	1	<.001**
Edmonton vs Other	43.698	1	<.001**
Calgary vs Other	9.601	1	=.002**
<u>Violent Crime</u>			
Edmonton vs Calgary	3.803	1	=.051
Edmonton vs Other	16.463	1	<.001**
Calgary vs Other	4.746	1	=.029*
<u>Property Crime</u>			
Edmonton vs Calgary	4.995	1	=.025*
Edmonton vs Other	18.591	1	<.001**
Calgary vs Other	4.424	1	=.035*

Calgary reported significantly more overall crime than persons sampled living in other areas of Alberta.

Respondents living in Edmonton and Calgary did not differ significantly in the rate of violent crime that they experienced (14.7% compared to 10.2%). However, significantly more respondents living in Edmonton and Calgary reported that they experienced more violent crime compared to persons sampled living in other areas of Alberta (6.0%).

In terms of property crime, persons sampled living in Edmonton reported that they experienced significantly more property crime (34.6%) than persons sampled living in Calgary (27.3%) and other areas of Alberta (20.9%). Additionally, respondents living in Calgary experienced significantly more property crime than respondents living in other areas of Alberta. Overall, the above hypothesis was partially supported.

The rate that participants reported being victims of violent and property crime to police was examined in relation to the area of Alberta that they lived in. Of victims sampled living in Edmonton, 67.8% reported to police experiencing violent crime compared to 68.3% of victims in Calgary and 70.8% of victims in other areas of Alberta. Of victims sampled living in Edmonton, 86.2%

reported to police being a victim of property crime compared to 84.5% of victims living in Calgary and 78.6% of victims living in other areas of Alberta. Overall, no significant relationships were found between the number of violent crimes reported [χ^2 (2, N = 124) = 0.075, p = .963] or property crimes reported [χ^2 (2, N = 332) = 2.329, p = .312] and area of Alberta.

Area of Alberta was also analyzed in relation to the consequences of crime. Of persons sampled who acquired a long-term or permanent disability as a result of a violent crime, 40.7% lived in Edmonton, 37.0% lived in other areas of Alberta, and 22.2% lived in Calgary. Of the victims sampled living in other areas of Alberta, 62.5% acquired a disability as a result of a violent criminal act and of victims sampled living in Edmonton and Calgary, 30.6% and 26.1% respectively, acquired a disability as a result of a violent act. Thus, victims sampled living in other areas of Alberta experienced significantly more long-term or permanent disabilities as a result of violent crime, χ^2 (2, N = 75) = 6.321, p = .042.

Table 9 illustrates the results of additional chi-square analyses that examined the relationship between area of Alberta and permanent disability as a result of crime. No significant differences were found between the incidence

Table 9

Chi-square Results for Area of Alberta and Permanent
Disability as a Result of Violent Crime

Area of Alberta	Chi-square	df	sig.
Edmonton vs Calgary	0.137	1	= .712
Edmonton vs Other			
Alberta	4.695	1	= .030*
Calgary vs Other			
Alberta	5.171	1	= .023*

of victims sampled in Edmonton and Calgary who reported acquiring a permanent disability as a result of violent crime. However, victims sampled living in other areas of Alberta experienced a significantly higher rate of acquired disability as a result of violent crime (62.5%) compared to victims sampled in both Edmonton (30.6%) and Calgary (26.1%).

The relationship between area of Alberta and whether a person sampled stated that they felt harmed as a result of a violent crime was also examined. Of victims living in other areas of Alberta, 66.7% stated they felt harmed as a result of crime compared to 61.0% of victims sampled in Edmonton and 56.1% of victims sampled in other areas of Alberta. Overall, no significant relationship was found, $\chi^2(2, N = 124) = 0.721, p = .679$.

Place of Residence

Hypothesis #5. Persons living in urban areas will experience more overall, violent, and property crime than persons living in rural areas.

For all types of crime, respondents sampled living in urban dwellings experienced significantly more crime than respondents sampled living in rural dwellings. In terms of overall crime, slightly more than 76% of crime occurred in

urban areas and 23.8% of crime occurred in rural areas. Of the persons sampled living in urban areas, 44.6% stated they were a victim of crime and only 27.9% of respondents living in rural areas stated they were a victim of crime and this difference was significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1206) = 31.23, p < .001$.

The results showed that persons sampled living in urban areas experienced more violent crime than persons sampled living in rural areas. The majority (80.6%) of victims of violent crime resided in urban areas with the remaining 19.4% residing in rural areas. Of the persons sampled living in urban areas, 12.4% stated that they had been violently victimized compared to 6.0% of persons sampled living in rural areas and this difference was significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1205) = 12.06, p = .001$.

In terms of property crime, persons sampled living in urban areas experienced more crime than persons sampled living in rural areas. The results showed that 74.8% of property crime victims resided in urban areas and 25.2% resided in rural areas. Of the persons sampled living in urban areas, 30.9% stated they were victims of property crime compared to 20.9% of persons sampled living in rural areas and this difference was found to be significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1206) = 13.34, p < .001$. Overall, the above

hypothesis was supported.

Hypothesis #6. Persons living in urban areas will be more likely to report violent and property crimes than persons living in rural areas.

Of persons sampled who reported violent crime to the police, 80.0% lived in urban areas and 20.0% lived in rural areas of Alberta. For participants living in urban areas, 68.8% of crime victims stated that they reported the violent crime to the police. This percentage corresponded closely to the 70.8% of crime victims living in rural areas who reported the violent crime to the police. Thus, no significant difference was found between rate of reporting and area of Alberta, $\chi^2 (1, N = 124) = .072, p = .788$.

Of persons sampled who reported property crime, 76.3% lived in urban areas, and 23.7% lived in rural areas. Of respondents living in urban areas, 85.5% reported property crime they experienced, and of respondents living in rural areas, 78.6% stated they reported a property offense they experienced. This difference was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 332) = 2.201, p = .138$. Overall, the above hypothesis was not supported.

The relationship between place of residence and the consequences of crime were also examined. Of the victims

sampled who acquired a disability due to violent crime, 37.0% lived in rural areas and 63.0% lived in urban areas. Of persons sampled living in rural areas who were victims of violent crime, 62.5% stated they acquired a permanent disability as a result of the violent crime compared to only 28.8% of persons sampled living in urban areas who acquired a permanent disability due to violent crime. Therefore, victims sampled living in rural areas were significantly more likely to acquire a permanent disability as a result of violent crime, $\chi^2 (1, N = 75) = 6.199, p = .013$.

Of victims who stated they felt harmed as a result of violent crime, 78.7% lived in urban areas and 21.3% lived in rural areas. Of victims living in urban areas, 59.0% reported they felt harmed and 66.7% of victims living in rural areas stated they felt harmed due to violent crime. This difference was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 124) = .476, p = .490$.

Gender

Hypothesis #7.

Men and women will experience a similar rate of overall and property crime, however women will experience a higher rate of violent crime than men.

In terms of overall crime, 57.1% of victims were male and 42.9% of victims were female. More male participants (45.1%) than female participants (33.2%) stated they were victims of overall crime in the last 10 years. Therefore, overall crime occurred significantly more often for males sampled compared to females sampled, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1206) = 17.9, p < .001$.

In terms of violent crime, 54.8% of victims were male and 45.2% of victims were female. Slightly more males (11.4%) than females (9.2%) sampled stated they had been victims of violent crime, however this difference was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1205) = 1.550, p = .213$.

In terms of property crime, 57.4% of victims were male and 42.6% of victims were female. Of all males sampled, 32.0% stated they were victims of property crime compared to 23.3% of females who stated they were victims of property crime. Therefore, property crime occurred significantly more often for men sampled in the current study than for women, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1206) = 11.35, p = .001$. Overall, the above hypothesis was not supported.

Hypothesis #8. Women will be less likely to
report violent crime to the police
than men.

The female participants in the current study tended to report more violent crime (74.1%) than male participants (66.2%) although this difference was not significant, χ^2 (1, N = 124) = 0.393, p = .531. The rate of property crime reported was also examined in relation to gender. The females sampled also tended to report more property crime (87.3%) than males sampled (81.1%), although this difference was not significant, χ^2 (1, N = 332) = 2.347, p = .126. Therefore, the above hypothesis was not supported.

Hypothesis #9. Women will more likely be harmed
or permanently disabled as a
result of violent crime than men.

In total, 27 of violent crime victims sampled stated that they acquired a permanent disability as a result of the violent crime. Of these, 19 (70.4%) were female and 8 (29.6%) were male. Of the participants, 48.7% of female victims sampled and 22.2% of male victims sampled stated that they acquired a permanent disability as a result of a violent crime and this difference was significant, χ^2 (1, N = 75) = 5.704, p = .017. Therefore, females sampled were more likely to acquire a permanent disability due to violent crime than males sampled.

In total, 75 of the persons sampled stated that they felt harmed as a result of a violent crime. Of these, 36

(48.0%) were male and 39 (52.0%) were female. In terms of victims of violent crime, more females sampled (69.6%) stated that they felt harmed as a result of the crime compared to males sampled (52.9%), however this difference was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 124) = 3.584, p = .058$. Overall, the above hypothesis was only partially supported.

Age

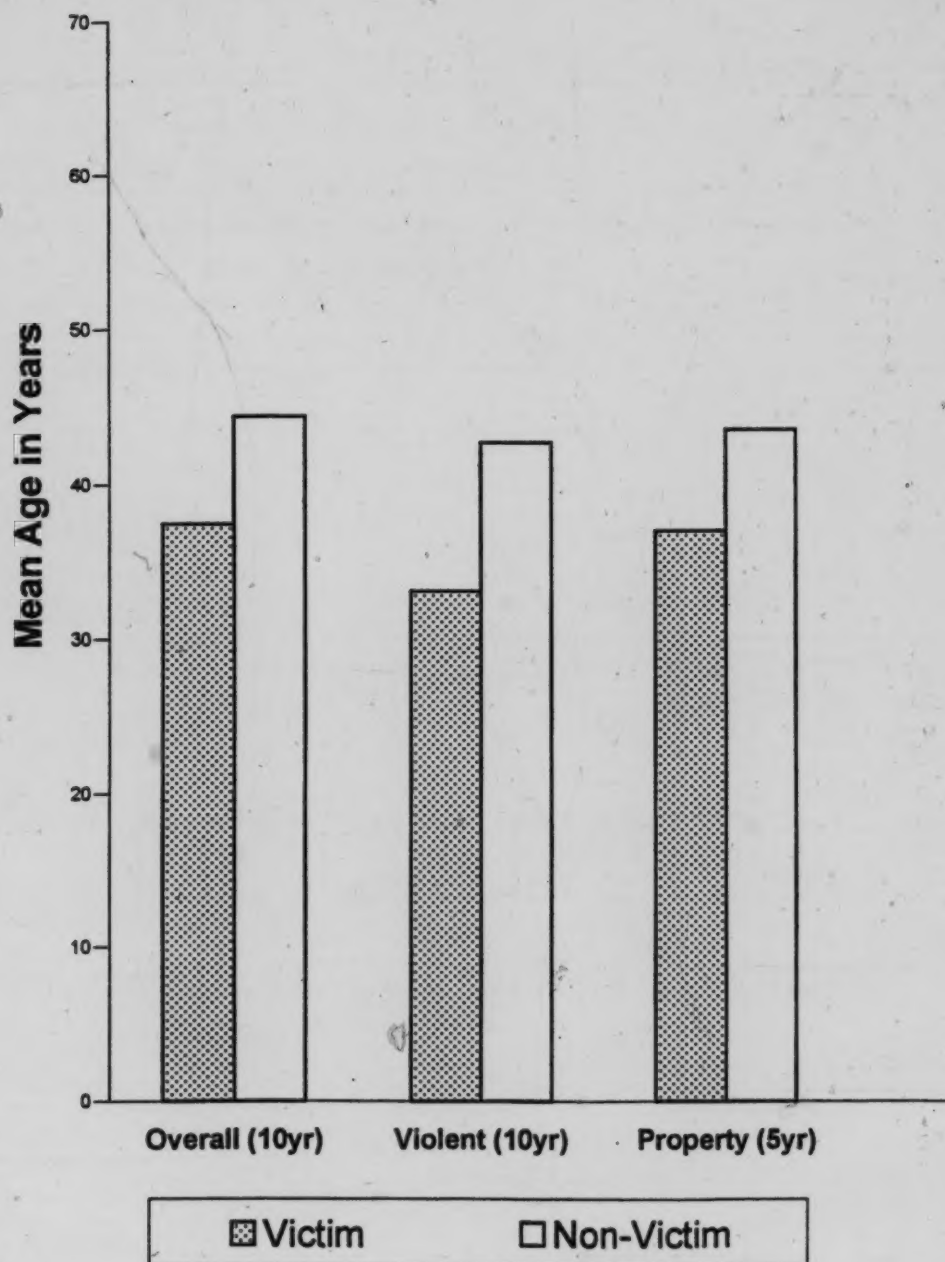
Hypothesis #10. As age increases, the rate of overall, violent, and property crime will decrease.

Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between age and victimization. In the last 10 years, participants who stated that they were victims of overall crime were significantly younger (M age = 37.52 years, $SD = 13.31$) than participants who stated they were not victims of overall crime (M age = 44.4 years, $SD = 16.71$), $t(1193) = -7.51, p < .001$.

In terms of violent crime, the mean age of victims sampled was significantly lower (M age = 33.11, $SD = 12.35$) than the mean age of non-victims sampled (M age = 42.96, $SD = 15.89$), $t(1192) = -6.46, p < .001$.

The same trend was found for participants who stated they were victims of property crime in the last 5 years. Persons sampled who were victims of property crime were

Figure 1: Mean age of victims of overall, violent, and property crime.



significantly younger ($\bar{M}$ age = 37.02, SD = 13.4) than persons sampled who were non-victims ($\bar{M}$ age = 43.5, SD = 16.31), $t(1193) = -6.44$, $p < .001$. Overall, the above hypothesis was supported.

Hypothesis #11. Older persons will be more likely to report violent and property crimes than younger persons.

The relationship between age and the reporting of violent crime was examined. It was found that respondents who were victims of violent crime and subsequently reported the crime were significantly older ($\bar{M}$ age = 35.24, SD = 13.16) than victims sampled who did not report violent crime ($\bar{M}$ age = 28.54, SD = 8.94), $t(121) = 2.883$, $p = .005$.

Upon further examination of age groups, it was found that 100% of persons sampled over the age of 50, and 72.7% of persons sampled aged 25 to 49 reported violent crime to the police whereas only 50.0% of persons sampled aged 18 to 24 reported violent crime. Table 10 illustrates the results of additional chi-square analyses to compare age groups and the reporting of violent crime. As shown, persons sampled aged 18 to 24 reported significantly less violent crime than persons sampled who were over the age of 25 years. No significant differences were found between persons sampled

Table 10

Chi-square Results for Age and Reporting of Violent Crime

Age	Chi-square Pearson Value	df	sig.
18-24 vs 25-49	5.385	1	=.020*
18-24 vs 50-64	6.020	1	=.014*
18-24 vs Over 65	4.457	1	=.035*
25-49 vs 50-64	2.589	1	=.108
25-49 vs Over 65	1.865	1	=.172
50-64 vs Over 65	100% report rate therefore chi-square not available		

who were aged 25 to 49 and persons sampled who were over the age of 50 years. Persons sampled who were over the age of 50 years reported 100% of all violent crime. Thus, persons sampled in older age groups reported significantly more violent crime to police than persons sampled in younger age groups, $\chi^2 (3, N = 124) = 11.765, p = .008$.

In terms of property crime in the last 5 years, no significant difference was found between the age of those sampled who reported crimes (M age = 34.62, $SD = 13.37$) and the age of those sampled who did not report crimes (M age = 34.19, $SD = 13.37$), $t (329) = 1.729, p = .085$. Overall, these findings partially supported the above hypothesis.

Age of participants was also examined in relation to whether a participant felt they were harmed or acquired a permanent disability as a result of violent crime. No significant relationships were found between age and these consequences of violent crime.

Hypothesis #12. Persons living in rural areas who had been victims of overall, violent, and property crime will be younger than persons living in urban areas who had been victims of overall, violent, and property crime.

Chi-square analyses were conducted to analyze the relationship between type of residence (urban verses rural) and the age of persons sampled who were victims of overall [$\chi^2 = (3, N = 471) = 6.948, p = .074$], violent [$\chi^2 = (3, N = 124) = 2.917, p = .405$], and property crime [$\chi^2 = (3, N = 333) = 4.437, p = .218$]. No significant relationships were found between age, type of residence, and crime and therefore the above hypothesis was not supported.

Type of Residence

Hypothesis #13. Persons living in rented residences will experience a higher rate of property crime than persons who own their residences.

In terms of overall crime, 66.1% of persons sampled who were victims owned their home and 33.9% of persons sampled who were victims rented their home. Of the persons in the current study who rented their home, 43.6% experienced overall crime compared to 37.2% of persons sampled who owned their home. Thus, persons sampled who rented their home experienced significantly more overall crime than persons sampled who owned their home, $\chi^2(1, N = 1189) = 4.33, p = .037$.

The same trend was found for persons sampled who were victims of violent crime. In terms of violent crime, 50.8%

of persons sampled who were victims of violent crime rented their home and 49.2% of persons sampled who were victims of violent crime owned their home. Of the respondents who rented their home, 17.5% were victims of violent crime compared to 7.4% of respondents who owned their home. Therefore, persons sampled who rented their home experienced significantly violent crime than persons sampled who owned their home, $\chi^2(1, N = 1188) = 27.29, p < .001$.

In terms of property crime, 67.9% of victims sampled owned their home and 32.1% of victims sampled rented their home. Of the persons who rented their home, 29.3% stated they had experienced property crime compared to 27.1% of persons who owned their home who stated they had experienced property crime. This difference was not significant, $\chi^2(1, N = 1189) = 0.606, p = .436$. Overall, the above hypothesis was not supported.

The relationship between type of residence and whether property and violent crime was reported to police was examined. In terms of violent crime reported, 70.5% of persons who owned their home reported a violent crime compared to 66.7% of persons who rented their home. This difference was not significant, $\chi^2(1, N = 124) = 0.210, p = .647$. Of property crime victims, 85.7% of those who owned

their home reported property crime compared to 79.0% who rented their home. This difference was also not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 329) = 2.316, p = .128$.

The relationship between type of residence and whether a respondent felt harmed or acquired a permanent disability as a result of violent crime was analyzed. Of violent crime victims sampled who owned their home, 37.0% stated they acquired a permanent disability compared to 47.9% of victims who rented their home who stated they acquired a permanent disability. This difference was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 75) = 0.830, p = .362$. Of victims sampled who owned their home, 44.0% stated they felt harmed and 57.1% of victims who rented their home stated they felt harmed. This difference was also not found to be significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 124) = 2.048, p = .152$.

Level of Income

Hypothesis #14. As the level of income increases, the incidence of property crime will increase and the incidence of violent crime will decrease.

Level of income was examined in relation to the rate of overall crime experienced in the last 10 years. For persons sampled who were victims of overall crime, 27.2% had incomes below \$14,000 per year, 23.5% had incomes

between \$14,000 and \$29,999, 36.9% had incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999, and 12.4% had incomes over \$60,000 per year. Of the persons sampled with incomes under \$14,000 per year, 36.5% had experienced overall crime and for persons sampled with incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999 and between \$30,000 and \$59,999, 38.8% and 45.0% respectively had experienced overall crime. For persons with incomes over \$60,000 per year, 45.1% had been victims of overall crime. Overall, no significant relationship was found between level of income and overall crime, $\chi^2 (3, N = 1008) = 6.090, p = .107$.

The relationship between level of income and the rate of violent victimization was examined. For persons sampled who were victims of violent crime, 37.3% had incomes below \$14,000 per year, 30.9% had incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999, 28.2% had incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999, and 3.6% had incomes over \$60,000 per year. Of the persons sampled with incomes under \$14,000 per year, 13.4% had experienced violent crime and of persons sampled with incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999 and between \$30,000 and \$59,999, 13.6% and 9.2% respectively had experienced violent crime. For persons with incomes over \$60,000 per year, 3.5% had been victims of violent crime. Therefore, persons sampled with lower levels of income experienced

significantly more violent crime than persons sampled with higher levels of income, $\chi^2(3, N = 1008) = 11.11, p = .011$.

Table 11 illustrates the results of additional chi-square analyses to compare level of income and rate of violent crime experienced. Persons sampled who earned over \$60,000 per year experienced significantly less violent crime than persons sampled who earned under \$29,999 per year. Persons sampled with incomes below \$14,000 per year experienced significantly more violent crime than persons sampled with incomes over \$60,000 per year. In summary, as the level of income increased, the rate of violent victimization decreased.

The relationship between level of income and the rate of property victimization was examined. Of persons sampled who were victims of property crime, 29.1% had incomes below \$14,000 per year, 24.0% had incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999, 33.9% had incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999, and 13.0% had incomes over \$60,000 per year. Of the persons sampled with incomes under \$14,000 per year, 27.7% had experienced property crime and of persons sampled with incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999 and between \$30,000 and \$59,999, 28.0% and 29.3% respectively had experienced property crime. Of persons with incomes over \$60,000 per year, 33.6% had been victims of property crime. Overall, no

Table 11

Chi-square Results for Level of Income and Violent Crime

Level of Income	Chi-square Pearson Value	df	sig.
Under \$14,000 vs			
\$14,000-\$29,999	0.007	1	=.933
Under \$14,000 vs			
\$30,000-\$59,999	2.839	1	=.092
Under \$14,000 vs			
over \$60,000	8.318	1	=.004**
\$14,000-\$29,999 vs			
\$30,000-\$59,999	2.866	1	=.090
\$14,000-\$29,999 vs			
over \$60,000	8.404	1	=.004**
\$30,000-\$59,999 vs			
over \$60,000	3.752	1	=.053

significant differences were found between rates of property victimization for different levels of income, χ^2 (3, $N = 1008$) = 1.568, $p = .667$. Overall, these findings partially supported the above hypothesis.

Level of income was analyzed in relation to whether a person reported a violent or property crime to the police. In terms of victims of violent crime, 58.5% of victims with incomes under \$14,000, 70.6% of victims with incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999, 77.4% of victims with incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999, and 75.0% of victims with incomes over \$60,000 stated they reported the violent crime to the police. These differences, however, were not significant, χ^2 (3, $N = 110$) = 3.154, $p = .368$. In terms of victims of property crime, 89.4% of victims with incomes under \$14,000, 74.3% of victims with incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999, 85.7% of victims with incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999 and 84.2% of victims with income over \$60,000 stated they reported the property crime to the police. These differences, however, were not significant, χ^2 (3, $N = 110$) = 6.925, $p = .074$.

Level of income was also analyzed in relation to whether persons sampled stated that they felt harmed or acquired a permanent disability as a result of a violent offense. Of victims with incomes below \$14,000 per year,

35.7% stated they acquired a disability compared to 31.8% of victims with incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999, 29.4% of victims with incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999, and 50.0% of victims with incomes over \$60,000 per year. Of victims with incomes below \$14,000 per year, 68.3% stated they felt harmed compared to 64.7% of victims with incomes between \$14,000 and \$29,999, 54.8% of victims with incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999, and 50.0% of victims with incomes over \$60,000 per year. No significant differences were found between level of income and acquired disability, $\chi^2 (3, N = 69) = 0.462, p = .927$, or between level of income and feelings of harm, $\chi^2 (3, N = 110) = 1.702, p = .636$.

Level of Education

Hypothesis #15.

Persons with higher levels of education will experience less overall and violent crime and more property crime than persons with lower levels of education.

No significant differences were found between level of education and the rate of overall [$\chi^2 (5, N = 1202) = 9.394, p = .094$], violent [$\chi^2 (5, N = 1201) = 6.869, p = .231$], and property [$\chi^2 (5, N = 1202) = 6.262, p = .282$] crime that participants in the current study experienced.

Thus, the above hypothesis was not supported.

Level of education was also examined in relation to the reporting of property and violent crime and whether a respondent felt harmed or acquired a disability as a result of a violent offense. No significant differences were found between level of education and reporting of violent crime [χ^2 (5, N = 124) = 1.640, p = .896] or between level of education reporting of property crime [χ^2 (5, N = 332) = 3.985, p = .552]. Additionally, no significant relationships were found between level of education and acquired disability [χ^2 (5, N = 75) = 7.916, p = .095] or between level of education and feelings of harm [χ^2 (5, N = 124) = 6.335, p = .275].

Marital Status

Hypothesis #16.

Persons who are single or separated/divorced will experience more overall, violent, and property crime than persons who are married/living in a common-law relationship, or widowed.

In terms of persons sampled who were victims of overall crime, 58.6% were married/living in a common-law relationship, 27.7% were never married, 11.4% were divorced or separated, and 2.4% were widowed. Of the participants

who were never married, 47.3% had been victims of overall crime compared to only 16.4% of participants who were widowed. Therefore, single persons sampled experienced the most overall victimization and widowed persons sampled experienced the least amount of overall victimization. Slightly more than 42% of divorced participants were victims of overall crime compared to 37.0% of married persons. Overall, a significant difference was found between marital status and rate of overall crime experienced, $\chi^2(3, N = 1197) = 24.72, p < .001$.

Table 12 shows additional chi-square results for marital status and rate of overall crime. Participants who were never married experienced significantly more overall crime than participants who were married. Persons sampled who were widowed experienced significantly less crime than persons sampled who were never married, married, or divorced. No significant difference was found between married and divorced participants in terms of overall crime.

The incidence of violent victimization in relation to marital status was also examined. Of persons sampled who were victims of violent crime, 36.3% were never married, 42.7% were married or in a common-law relationship, 16.9% were divorced or separated, and 4.0% were widowed. Of the

participants who were divorced, 17.6% stated they were violently victimized compared to 7.2% of married participants who stated they were violently victimized. Additionally, 16.5% of participants who were never married and 7.5% of participants who were widowed reported they were victims of violent crime. Overall, participants who were divorced experienced the highest amount of violent crime, followed by persons who were never married, widowed, and married. Overall, the relationship between marital status and violent crime was significant, and a significant relationship was found, $\chi^2(3, N = 1196) = 26.38, p < .001$.

Table 12 illustrates the results of additional chi-square test results for marital status and rate of violent crime experienced. Persons sampled who were never married experienced significantly more violent crime than persons sampled who were married. Respondents who were divorced experienced significantly more violent crime than respondents who were married. No significant difference was found between persons sampled who were never married and persons sampled who were divorced or widowed in terms of violent crime.

The incidence of property victimization in relation to marital status was examined and a significant relationship was found, $\chi^2(3, N = 1197) = 19.37, p < .001$. In terms of

Table 12

Chi-square Results for Marital Status and Overall, Violent,
and Property Crime

Marital Status	Chi-square Pearson Value	df	sig.
<u>Overall Crime</u>			
Never Married vs			
Married	8.668	1	=.003**
Never Married vs			
Divorced	0.319	1	=.572
Never Married vs			
Widowed	21.117	1	<.001**
Married vs Divorced	2.222	1	=.136
Married vs Widowed	11.435	1	=.001**
Divorced vs Widowed	14.706	1	<.001**
<u>Violent Crime</u>			
Never Married vs			
Married	19.632	1	<.001**
Never Married vs			
Divorced	0.080	1	=.777
Never Married vs			
Widowed	3.490	1	=.062

Married vs Divorced	14.183	1	<.001**
Married vs Widowed	0.007	1	=.934
Divorced vs Widowed	3.698	1	=.054

Property Crime

Never Married vs

Married	4.455	1	=.035*
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Never Married vs

Divorced	2.104	1	=.147
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Never Married vs

Widowed	18.559	1	<.001**
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Married vs Divorced	0.019	1	=.890
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Married vs Widowed	12.647	1	<.001**
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Divorced vs Widowed	9.990	1	=.002**
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persons sampled who had experienced property crime, 28.1% were never married, 60.7% were married or living in a common-law relationship, 9.7% were divorced or separated, and 1.5% were widowed. Of the respondents who were never married, 34.1% had experienced property crime compared to 7.5% of respondents who were widowed. Therefore, persons sampled who were never married experienced the highest amount of property crime and persons sampled who were widowed experienced the lowest amount of property crime. Participants who were married and participants who were divorced or separated experienced similar rates of property crime (27.3% and 26.7% respectively).

Table 12 illustrates the results of additional chi-square tests to examine marital status and property victimization. Persons sampled who were married, never married, and divorced experienced significantly more property crime than persons sampled who were widowed. Additionally, persons sampled who were never married experienced significantly more property crime than persons sampled who were married. There were no significant differences found between persons sampled who were divorced and those that were married and between persons sampled who were divorced and those that had never married. Overall, these findings partially supported the above hypothesis.

Marital status was also examined in relation to the reporting of property and violent crime. Of victims of violent crime, 64.4% of never married, 71.7% of married, 61.9% of divorced, and 100.0% of widowed persons sampled stated they reported the crime to the police. These differences, however, were not significant, $\chi^2 (3, N = 124) = 3.319, p = .345$. Of property crime victims, 78.5% of never married, 86.0% of married, 84.4% of divorced, and 80.0% of widowed persons sampled stated they reported the crime to the police. These differences, however, were also not significant, $\chi^2 (3, N = 330) = 2.674, p = .445$.

The consequences (harm and permanent disability) of violent crime were also examined in relation to marital status. Of victims of violent crime, 34.6% of never married, 40.0% of married, 37.5% of divorced, and 0.0% of widowed persons sampled stated they acquired a disability due to the violent crime. These differences, however, were not significant, $\chi^2 (3, N = 75) = 1.933, p = .586$. In terms of feelings of harm, of the victims of violent crime, 57.8% of never married, 56.6% of married, 76.2% of divorced, and 60.0% of widowed persons sampled stated they felt harmed as a result of the crime. These differences, however, were also not significant, $\chi^2 (3, N = 124) = 2.640, p = .451$.

Disability Status

Hypothesis #17. Persons with disabilities will experience more overall, violent, and property crime than persons without disabilities.

In terms of overall crime, 8.9% of victims had a disability and 91.1% did not have a disability. Of persons sampled with a disability, 36.5% stated they were a victim of overall crime and 39.4% of persons sampled without a disability stated they were a victim of overall crime. This difference was not found to be significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1203) = 3.69, p = .543$.

In terms of violent crime, 13.7% of victims stated they had a disability and 86.3% of victims stated they did not have a disability. More persons sampled with a disability (14.8%) than persons sampled without a disability (9.8%) stated they had been violently victimized, however this difference was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1202) = 2.742, p = .098$.

In terms of property crime, 9.0% of victims had a disability and 91.0% of victims did not have a disability. Of persons sampled with a disability, 26.1% stated they experienced property crime and of persons sampled without a disability, 27.8% stated they experienced property crime.

Overall, this difference was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 1203) = 0.161, p = .688$.

The number of persons with disabilities in the sample was small, therefore the number of persons with disabilities who were victimized was even smaller. Further examination was completed to analyze only those persons sampled who were victims of crime in the last 10 years. It was found that 40.5% of persons with disabilities were victims of violent crime compared to 25.0% of persons without disabilities who were victims of violent crime. Therefore, persons sampled with disabilities who were victimized were significantly more likely to be victims of violent crime compared to victims sampled without disabilities, $\chi^2 (1, N = 470) = 4.71, p < .05$.

It was also found that 83.3% of victims sampled with a disability were victims of property crime compared to 85.4% of victims sampled without disabilities who were victims of a property crime. Thus, victims sampled with disabilities were not significantly more likely than victims sampled without disabilities to be victims of property crime, $\chi^2 (1, N = 351) = 0.089, p > .05$. These findings, therefore, partially supported the above hypothesis.

Disability status was also examined in relation to the reporting of property and violent crime. Of violent crime

victims sampled, 76.5% of those with disabilities and 67.3% of those without disabilities stated they reported being a victim of violent crime to the police. This difference was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 124) = 0.574, p = .449$. Of property crime victims sampled, 86.7% of persons with disabilities and 83.4% of persons without disabilities stated they reported being a victim of property crime to the police. This difference was also not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 332) = 0.208, p = .648$.

The consequences (harm and permanent disability) of violent crime were also examined in relation to disability status. Of persons sampled, 18.5% of persons with disabilities acquired additional disability due to violent crime and 8.3% of persons previously without disabilities stated they acquired a disability due to violent crime. This difference, however, was not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 75) = 1.698, p = .193$. In terms of harm felt, 12.0% of persons with disabilities who were victims of violent crime and 16.3% of persons without disabilities who were victims of violent crime stated they felt harmed as a result of the crime. This difference was also not significant, $\chi^2 (1, N = 124) = 0.469, p = .493$.

Data was collected concerning the different types of disabilities and the rate of victimization. Table 13

illustrates the frequency of persons sampled with specific disabilities and the rate of victimization for each type of disability. Six types of disabilities were examined, namely agility, mobility, hearing, vision, communication and thinking. In terms of overall and property crime, there were no significant differences found between the different types of disabilities and the rate of crime that persons sampled experienced.

For persons sampled who stated they had agility, communication, hearing, mobility, or visual disabilities, no significant relationships were found between these types of disabilities and the rate of violent crime experienced. However, 4.0% of persons sampled with a thinking disability stated they were victims of a violent crime compared to 1.4% of persons without thinking disabilities who stated they were victims of violent crime. Thus, persons sampled with thinking disabilities were significantly more likely to be victims of violent crime compared to persons sampled without thinking disabilities, $\chi^2(1, N = 1204) = 4.78, p = .029$.

The results presented support and contradict results found by previous researchers in the area of crime and

Table 13

Frequency of Specific Disabilities and Rate of Overall,
Violent, and Property Crime for Persons with Specific
Disabilities

Victimization	<u>N</u> (%)	Victim <u>n</u> (%)	Non-Victim <u>n</u> (%)
Hearing Disability 18 (7.5)			
Overall Crime		6 (33.3)	12 (66.7)
Violent Crime		1 (5.6)	17 (94.4)
Property Crime		5 (27.8)	13 (72.2)
Agility Disability 74 (30.7)			
Overall Crime		26 (35.1)	48 (64.9)
Violent Crime		10 (13.5)	64 (86.5)
Property Crime		21 (20.4)	53 (53.6)
Vision Disability 34 (14.1)			
Overall Crime		14 (42.1)	20 (58.8)
Violent Crime		6 (17.6)	28 (82.4)
Property Crime		11 (32.4)	23 (67.6)
Communication Disability 20 (8.3)			
Overall Crime		7 (35.0)	13 (65.0)
Violent Crime		3 (15.0)	17 (85.0)
Property Crime		4 (20.0)	16 (80.0)

Mobility Disability 75 (31.1)

Overall Crime	23 (30.7)	52 (69.3)
Violent Crime	10 (13.3)	65 (86.7)
Property Crime	20 (26.7)	55 (73.3)

Thinking Disability 20 (8.3)

Overall Crime	10 (50.0)	10 (50.0)
Violent Crime	5 (25.0)	15 (75.0)
Property Crime	7 (35.0)	13 (65.0)

victimization. The following section discusses these findings in more detail and provides possible hypotheses and explanations concerning new and contradictory findings.

Chapter 5

Discussion

The current study supported as well as contradicted previous research in the areas of the incidence of crime and the frequency of the reporting of crime within Canadian society. The current study also provided important new information concerning the risk of criminal victimization towards persons with disabilities, crime-induced disabilities, and socio-demographic variables that affected whether crime was reported to the police. The majority of previous research had focused on victimization within Canada as a whole, whereas the current study provided information regarding victimization within the Province of Alberta. Future research would benefit from studies that examine similar issues in other Provinces across Canada.

Incidence, Consequences, and Reporting of Crime in Alberta

The current study examined the incidence, consequences and reporting of crime in Alberta over the last 10 years. Each issue will be discussed separately in the following section.

Incidence of Crime in Alberta

According to the present study, 39.1% of persons sampled in the Province of Alberta were a victim of overall crime in the last 10 years. This result however, included

both reported and unreported crime. According to Hendrick (1996), 2.7 million people in Canada reported to the police that they had been victimized in 1995. In Alberta, 247,426 criminal incidents were reported in 1995. Taking into consideration the population of Alberta in 1995 (2,747,000 persons), the rate of crime reported to police was roughly 9.0%. The study by Hendrick (1996), however, only examined crime reported to the police; therefore it was likely an underestimate of the actual rate of crime within Alberta. The current study, therefore, provided a more realistic estimate of victimization within Alberta.

In terms of violent crime, the present study found that violent crime occurred in 10.3% of crimes sampled within Alberta. This percentage of victimization is comparable to results found by Hendrick (1996) who showed that the incidence of violent crime across Canada was approximately 11.0%. The percentage of violent crime found by Hendrick (1996) included only crime reported to the police but also included crimes such as murder, homicide, and manslaughter. The current study, however, excluded crimes where victims lost their lives, such as murder and manslaughter, since participants were asked only concerning crimes that they had experienced. Additionally, the current study included crimes not reported to the police.

Therefore, it is difficult to compare the violent crime rate found in this study with previous studies. The rate of violent crime in Alberta, as presented in the current study, is likely a more accurate reflection of violent crime due to the inclusion of unreported crime, however the exclusion of murder and homicide will also likely affect the accuracy of this finding. Thus, the percentage of violent crime found in this study is only an estimate of the total amount of violent crime that likely occurs within Alberta.

The incidence of property crime within the last 5 years was examined. It was shown that 27.6% of persons sampled had experienced property crime. This result was lower than the result found by Gartner and Doob (1994) and Hendrick (1996) which showed that 51% to 58% of persons in Canada had reported to police that they experienced property crime. The results of the current study regarding property crime were substantially lower than previously reported, especially considering the current survey included unreported as well as reported crime. Future research needs to re-examine what crimes constituted a property offense in each study to ensure that previous results can be compared to the results of the current study.

It was hypothesized that property crime would occur more often than violent crime. The present study did find that violent crime occurred less often than property crime for persons sampled within Alberta, which supported the above hypothesis. This result concurs with existing research by Gartner and Doob (1994) and Hendrick (1996, 1995) who found that property crime occurred in roughly 60.0% of cases whereas violent crime occurred in only 11.0% of cases. The current study, however, examined property crime over the last 5 years and violent crime over the last 10 years since information regarding property crime over the last 10 years was unavailable. Despite this, property crime was still found to be more prevalent than violent crime. It is possible that an even greater difference between property and violent crime would be evident if property crime was examined over a 10 year period. Future research would benefit from examining the rate of different types of crime during the same time frame in order to allow for more accurate comparisons.

Reporting of Crime in Alberta

The current study showed that a substantial number of violent and property crimes were not reported to police. Only 68.5% of violent crimes were reported and 83.5% of property crimes were reported. These figures roughly

concurred with research by Hendrick (1996, 1995), and Johnson (1996) who found that 68% of assault (violent crime) and 70% of break and enter (property crime) was reported.

Victims of violent victimization may not report crime for several reasons. Victims may fear for their safety, especially if the perpetrator was an acquaintance. Victims may also be ashamed of being victimized, especially in cases of sexual assault or rape. Additional research is needed that examines the reasons why victims do not report crime. This information would be useful in identifying community support services that help increase the number of violent crimes reported. If violent crime remains unreported, reoccurrence is a likely reality since perpetrators are not brought to justice and victims do not receive the help they need to regain control of their lives and prevent future victimization.

It was predicted that property crime would be reported to police more often than violent crime. The rate of property crime reported was higher than the rate of violent crime reported, which supported the above hypothesis. One reason of the higher number of property crimes reported may be that property crimes involved monetary value and an official police report was needed to reclaim money and

possessions through insurance agencies. The reporting of property crime may also have involved less fear and shame for victims, and victims were less likely to fear retaliation or public embarrassment as a result of experiencing a property offense (Hendrick, 1996, 1995; Johnson, 1996). This may explain why property crime was reported more often than violent crime, however this hypothesis requires additional investigation.

Reporting of Crime and Socio-Demographic Variables

The current study examined whether socio-demographic variables affected the rate that property and violent crime was reported to police. In general, no socio-demographic variables were found to be significantly related to the rate of property crime reported and only age was found to be significantly related to the reporting of violent crime. Since few significant relationships were found, all information regarding the reporting of crime and socio-demographic variables will be discussed in the following section.

It was predicted that older persons would be more likely to report violent and property crimes compared to younger persons. In terms of violent crime, the results supported the hypothesis that younger persons would report significantly less violent crime than older persons.

Persons over the age of 50 reported 100% of violent crime that they experienced. Previous research had shown that younger persons, especially females, were more likely to be victims of sexual assault or rape, and these types of crimes were less likely to be reported (Hendrick, 1996). Since older persons were less likely to experience violent sexual assault, this could be a factor in explaining the increased reporting behaviour of older adults.

In terms of property crime, no significant difference was found between the age of those who reported the crime and those who did not report the crime. This did not support the hypothesis that older persons would be more likely to report property crime than younger persons. Previous research by Hendrick (1995, 1996) and Johnson (1996) found that incidents involving older adults were more likely reported, however, their finding referred more to overall and violent crime and not specifically to property crime. Therefore, the current study provided new information and showed that age may not be a factor in determining the number of property crimes reported to police.

It was also predicted that persons living in urban areas were more likely to report violent and property crimes than persons living in rural areas. This hypothesis,

however, was not supported. These findings contradicted previous research by Hendrick (1996, 1995) and Johnson (1996) which showed that crimes occurring in urban areas were more likely to be reported to police than crimes occurring in rural areas. It was suggested by Johnson (1996) that police tended to be more visible and accessible in urban areas than in rural areas and therefore persons living in urban areas had more opportunity to seek police protection and assistance. This explanation is acceptable if the crime occurred in urban areas. The current study only examined where the victim lived and not where they were victimized. Future research would benefit from examining not only where persons lived but also where the actual crime occurred. This information is important in order to fully understand what crime is subsequently reported to police.

It was also hypothesized that women would be less likely to report violent crime to police than men, however, this hypothesis was not supported. The results did show that slightly more females reported violent crime compared to males, however this difference was not significant. Previous research did not directly examine gender and its effects on the reporting of crime to police. It was shown by Hendrick (1996, 1995), and Johnson (1996) that 90% of

sexual assault victims did not report the crime. Since more women had been shown to be victims of sexual assault, it was possible to predict that fewer women would report violent crime. However, the reporting of crime, rather than being related to gender, may be highly dependent on the type of crime that was experienced. Thus, future research would benefit from an analysis not only of the incidence of crime but the specific types of crimes experienced and how this affects crime subsequently reported to police.

In terms of the reporting of property crime, no significant difference was found between men and women. The current study showed that men experienced more property crime than women, however, both genders were equally likely to report the crime.

Disability status was also examined in relation to whether violent or property crime was reported to police and no significant differences were found. Previous research had focused solely on abuse of persons with disabilities and whether abuse was reported to police (Baladerian, 1991; Doucette, 1986; Garbarino, 1987). The current study provided new information regarding the reporting behaviour of persons with disabilities who had been victims of crime. It may have been possible to predict that few persons with disabilities would report crime they

experienced since few persons with disabilities reported abuse they experienced. The reasons for fewer persons with disabilities reporting abuse had focused on the lack of resources, support, or communicative abilities of persons with disabilities (Garbarino, 1987; Sobsey, 1994). The participants in the current study were not likely to have had severe disabilities since all were able to effectively communicate responses to the survey. Thus, the above reasons for not reporting abuse may not have been applicable to participants in the current study. Therefore, if a more representative sample of persons with disabilities was obtained (including persons with all types and severity of disability), it is possible that a relationship would have been observed between disability status and the reporting of crime.

The reporting of crime in relation to area of Alberta, type of residence, level of income, education, and marital status provided new information since previous research had not focused on these variables in relation to the reporting of violent or property crime. In summary, all persons, regardless of most socio-demographic characteristics, were equally likely to report property crime to police. These findings may be related to the fact that property crime involved monetary value and possessions and that all

persons required police reports to file insurance claims.

In terms of violent crime, the only variable that was related to whether crime was reported was age. Older persons reported significantly more violent crime than younger persons. Future research needs to examine ways to increase the reporting behaviour of younger persons as well as to target all persons when trying to improve the rate of violent and property crime reported to police.

Consequences of Crime in Alberta

The current study examined the incidence of long-term or permanent disability as a result of violent crime. In total, 36.0% of violent crime victims stated that they acquired a long-term or permanent disability as a result of being victimized. Approximately, 2.2% of all persons sampled stated they acquired a disability due to violent crime. This contradicted previous research by Gartner and Doob (1994) and Hendrick (1996) who found that between 6 and 10 percent of victims received major injuries that resulted in a loss of daily functioning for more than 4 days. Previous studies, however, did not examine the incidence of permanent disability as a result of violent crime and solely focused on temporary loss of function. The current study provided new information that indicated that a large percentage of violent crime could have devastating

and lasting consequences for its victims. Information regarding the type of disability (physical or non-physical) that victims experienced was not included in the current study. Future research would benefit from this information since the type and severity of disability are important factors in determining appropriate social, emotional, and physical support programs for victims of violent crime.

A large proportion of victims sampled stated that they were physically or psychologically harmed as a result of violent crime (60.5%). This result was slightly higher than findings by Gartner and Doob (1994) who found that 49% of victims of violent crime were physically injured as a result of the crime. The current study, however, included those who stated they were psychologically harmed and it is unclear as to the number who received only physical injuries compared to those who received only psychological injuries. It is also unclear as to the extent of economic and emotional consequences victims experienced as a result of violent crime. Future research would benefit from distinguishing between psychological, physical, emotional, and economic harm so that an analysis of physical and non-physical consequences that victims experienced due to violent crime can be examined.

Consequences of Crime and Socio-Demographic Variables

Very few significant relationships were found regarding the consequences of crime and socio-demographic variables. All findings, therefore, will be discussed in the following section and not re-addressed in the remainder of the discussion.

The current study examined whether socio-demographic variables were related to permanent or long-term disability as a result of violent crime. The current study only hypothesized that women would be more likely to be harmed or permanently disabled as a result of violent crime compared to men. The current study showed that 48.7% of female victims of violent crime acquired a long-term disability compared to only 22.2% of male victims of violent crime, thus supporting the above hypothesis. Therefore, female victims sampled were significantly more likely to acquire a disability as a result of violent crime compared to men.

One possible explanation for this finding could be that men and women experienced different types of violent crime and therefore experienced different consequences. The current study found that men and women sampled experienced similar rates of violent crime. The fact that significantly more women were disabled due to violent crime supports the

explanation that women do experience different types (and often more serious forms) of violent crime. Previous research by Hendrick (1996) found that women were more likely to sustain injuries that impaired their daily functioning compared to men. Hendrick also related her findings to the type of crime that women experienced (sexual assault and rape) compared to men (robbery and theft). Previous research did, however, find that more men were murdered compared to women (Hendrick, 1996). The current study did not examine murder or homicide and this information would be useful in future analyses that pertain to violent crime in Alberta.

The current study also examined area of Alberta and place of residence (urban verses rural) in relation to long-term or permanent disability due to violent crime. The present study found that persons sampled living outside of Edmonton and Calgary experienced significantly more crime-induced disability compared to persons sampled living in Edmonton and Calgary. Essentially, participants in other areas of Alberta experienced 31.9% more crime-induced disability than participants living in Edmonton and 36.4% more crime-induced disability than participants living in Calgary. Overall, significantly more persons living in rural areas acquired crime-induced disabilities compared to

persons living in urban areas.

The significant relation between place of residence and crime-induced disability is new information since previous research had not addressed the issue of injury or acquired disability in relation to socio-demographic variables. Reasons for this finding could be that victims living in rural areas might have been less likely to receive swift medical attention for any injuries they endured, especially if they were victimized in remote areas of the Province. Once again, the problem of location of the crime is a factor, since it is uncertain whether the crime occurred in a rural or urban location.

The present study also found that violent crime occurred significantly more often in Edmonton and Calgary than in other areas of Alberta. Although violent crime occurred more often in urban areas, persons living in rural areas experienced more severe consequences. A possible explanation could be that crime occurring in rural areas occurred less often but was more serious in nature. This would explain why persons sampled in other areas of Alberta experienced significantly more devastating and long-lasting consequences as a result of violent crime. Future research needs to examine not only the rate of violent crime but the seriousness of offenses in order to fully understand the

consequences of crime.

Age, type of residence, level of income, education, marital status, and disability status were examined in relation to crime-induced disability, however no significant results were found. Once again, this provided new information since previous research had not addressed the issue of permanent disability and crime nor had it addressed injury in regards to socio-demographic variables. Overall, these findings suggest that all persons, regardless of age, income, education or lifestyle can be victimized and sustain serious and life-long consequences as a result of violent crime. Future research would benefit from examining how to educate society to learn how to overcome the belief that "it won't happen to me" and to learn how to better protect oneself from criminal victimization.

The current study also examined the relationship between socio-demographic variables and feelings of harm as a result of violent crime. No socio-demographic variables were found to be significantly related to feelings of harm that victims experienced. It was interesting to see that even though age and area of Alberta were significantly related to the rate of crime-induced disability, no significant results were found in regards to harm felt and

these variables. Although a significant difference was not found between males and females in terms of harm felt ($p = .058$), more females (69.6%) stated they felt harmed compared to males (52.9%).

A possible explanation for the lack of significant findings related to harm may have been the lack of a concrete operational definition of harm presented in the survey. Harm could have been interpreted by participants in many ways. Many respondents stated they felt harmed due to violent crime, however, the degree and type of harm was not determined. Therefore, the construct of harm felt was not likely an accurate measure of the psychological turmoil a person endured as a result of violent crime. This reasoning may also explain the fact that no significant relationships were found between harm felt and the socio-demographic variables that were significantly related to crime-induced disability.

Consequences of Crime and the Reporting of Crime in Alberta

It was predicted that persons who sustained a long-term or permanent disability or felt harmed as a result of violent crime would be more likely to report the crime to police. The consequences (harm or long-term disability) of violent crime were not found to influence the subsequent reporting of violent crime. Persons sampled who stated that

they were permanently disabled as a result of violent crime reported the crime at a rate similar to that of persons sampled who were not permanently disabled as a result of the crime. Additionally, persons sampled who stated they were harmed due to violent crime reported the crime at a rate similar to that of persons sampled who stated they were not harmed. These findings did not support the above hypothesis. This is new information since previous research had not addressed the issue of permanent disability nor did it address whether the reporting of crime was affected by these consequences. The current finding was surprising since it seemed plausible to assume that persons whose lives were forever changed as a result of violent crime would be more likely to report the incident. Research by Sobsey (1994), however, found that abuse-induced disability remained largely unreported. The current study provided additional information to this finding and showed that a large number of crime-induced disabilities also remained unreported.

Socio-Demographic Information in Relation to the Incidence
of Overall, Violent, and Property Crime

Area of Alberta

It was hypothesized that overall, violent, and property crime rates in Edmonton would be higher than

overall, violent, and property crime rates in Calgary and other areas of Alberta, and this hypothesis was partially supported. The present study showed that persons sampled in Edmonton experienced the highest amounts of overall and property crime, followed by Calgary, and other areas of Alberta. These results supported previous research by Hendrick (1996) which showed that the rate of crime in Edmonton was higher than the rate of crime in Calgary in 1995. The current study provided additional information concerning other areas of Alberta since previous research had mainly focused on major urban centers within the Canadian Provinces.

The current study did not support the hypothesis that Edmonton would have a higher rate of violent crime than Calgary and other areas of Alberta. Research by Hendrick (1996) found that the city of Calgary had a large decrease in violent crime over the last several years compared to Edmonton, which had only a small decrease in violent crime. Hendrick (1996, 1995) had also shown that Edmonton had significantly higher rates of violent crime than other cities within Alberta. Therefore, it was expected that Edmonton would have the highest rate of violent crime within the Province, however this was not supported. Participants sampled living in Edmonton and Calgary

experienced similar rates of violent crime, however persons sampled living in both cities experienced significantly more violent crime than persons living in other areas of Alberta. It is possible that the exclusion of some types of violent crimes, namely murder and homicide, influenced the present results and may explain the lack of consistency with previous research by Hendrick (1996) that did include murder and homicide in the analyses of violent crime. It is possible that murder and homicide occurred more often in Edmonton than in Calgary, and since these crimes were excluded, the rate of violent crime in Edmonton and Calgary did not differ. This explanation would benefit from further examination in future research.

Place of Residence

The current study also hypothesized that persons living in urban areas would experience more overall, violent, and property crime than persons living in rural areas and this hypothesis was supported. Participants living in urban areas experienced 16.7% more overall crime than participants living in rural areas and significantly more participants sampled in urban areas had been victims of violent and property crime compared to participants in rural areas. Overall, persons living in urban areas experienced 6.4% more violent crime and 10.0% more property

crime than persons living in rural areas.

Research by Hendrick (1996, 1995), and Johnson (1996) indicated that large urban centers tended to have higher rates of crime than rural areas. These results also coincided with the current results that persons living in Edmonton and Calgary experienced more overall, violent, and property crime than persons living in other areas of Alberta. However, the current study did not examine where the actual crime occurred but rather where the victim of the crime lived. Thus, the question of whether urban centers in Alberta have higher crime rates than rural areas of the Province still needs to be addressed.

Gender

It was predicted that males and females would experience a similar rate of overall and property crime, however females would experience a higher rate of violent crime compared to men. The results of the present study showed that men experienced 4.9% more overall crime and 8.7% more property crime than women. These findings contradicted the above hypothesis and did not support previous research by Chard (1995), Hendrick (1996, 1995), Integration and Analysis Program (1996), and Johnson (1996) which showed that men and women experienced similar rates of non-violent crime. A potential reason for this

contradiction of findings could be related to marital status. A large number of men in the sample were single compared to females. The results of the current study, in regard to marital status, showed that persons sampled who were never married experienced significantly more property crime than persons sampled who were married, divorced, or widowed. The fact that there were more single men in the sample could explain the finding that more men experienced property crime than women. In summary, the reasons surrounding why men in the sample experienced significantly more overall and property crime requires further examination.

In terms of violent crime, there were no significant differences found between the number of men and women who were victimized. This finding did not support the hypothesis that females would experience more violent crime than males. This finding can not be explained by variables such as age, place of residence, or type of residence since men and women in the sample were equally distributed across these socio-demographic variables. This finding contradicted previous research by Chard (1995), Hendrick (1996, 1995), and Johnson (1996) who found that more women had been a victim of violent crime compared to men.

A possible explanation for this finding is that

although men and women experienced similar rates of violent crime, the results did not provide information concerning the types of crimes committed against men and women. Men may have been more likely to be victims of serious assault (Hendrick, 1996, 1995) and women may have been more likely to be victims of sexual assault, rape, or spousal abuse (Chard, 1995; Johnson, 1996; Hendrick, 1996, 1995). Since most of the persons in the sample were married, and since issues related to sex crimes are of a sensitive nature, it may be that the women in the sample disclosed less information concerning spousal abuse, or sexual assault during the telephone interview. This lack of disclosure could explain the lower number of women who stated they were victims of violent crime and the end result of no difference being found between the rate of violent crime for men and women.

Age

It was hypothesized that as age increases, the rate of overall, violent, and property crime will decrease. The current study found that victims of overall, violent, and property crime were significantly younger than non-victims which supported the hypothesis that as age increases, the rate of crime decreases. The results of the present study also confirmed previous research by Chard (1995), Gartner

and Doob (1994), Hendrick (1996, 1995), Johnson (1996) and Ogrodnik (1994).

Several factors may account for this finding. Younger persons have been shown to be single, students, and to spend more time engaged in evening activities than older persons. These lifestyle factors have previously been shown to increase the risk of criminal victimization (Gartner & Doob, 1994). As illustrated in the current study, persons who were never married experienced the most amount of overall and property crime. Upon further examination, never married persons tended to be younger than persons living in other types of relationships. Therefore, the combination of age and marital status (young and single) was likely to increase the risk of overall and property crime. The current study did not find any significant relationship between level of education and crime, therefore the previous finding by Gartner and Doob (1994) and Hendrick (1996) which found that students had a higher risk of victimization was not supported. In summary, age as well as other socio-demographic variables likely interact to increase the risk of victimization. Age alone, however, was still shown to be a powerful factor in determining the risk of crime.

It was also hypothesized that persons living in rural

areas who had been victims of overall, violent, and property crime would be younger than persons living in urban areas who had been victims of these crimes, however this was not supported. Of persons sampled who were victimized, all age groups were equally represented and victims living in both areas had lower average ages than non-victims. In previous research by Hendrick (1996), it was found that persons in rural areas were victimized at younger ages than persons in urban areas.

Type of Residence

It was hypothesized that persons living in rented residences would experience a higher rate of property crime than persons who owned their residences. The results of the current study indicated that persons sampled who rented their homes were significantly more often victims of overall or violent crime than persons who owned their homes. Overall, persons who rented their home experienced 6.4% more overall crime and 10.1% more violent crime than persons who owned their home. These findings provided new information to recent studies since previous research had only focused on the relationship between property crime and type of residence.

Reasons for these findings could be related to age and level of income of the persons sampled. Persons sampled who

rented their homes were younger and tended to earn lower levels of income than persons who owned their homes. These additional variables could have played a key role in the finding that type of residence was related to higher rates of overall and violent crime since younger persons were also more likely to be victims of overall and violent crime. Additionally, persons with lower levels of income were also found to be more likely to experience violent crime than persons with higher levels of income. Therefore, type of residence, age, and level of income likely interact to increase the likelihood of overall, and violent crime.

In terms of property crime, the present study found no significant difference between the rate of property crime for persons living in rented or owned homes. This did not support the above hypothesis nor did it coincide with previous research by Hendrick (1996) and Wright (1995) who found that persons living in rented homes were more likely to be victims of property crime than persons living in homes they owned. One reason for this discrepancy may be that in previous research, level of income was shown to be directly related to whether a person owned their home and persons with higher income levels experienced significantly more property crime. In the current study, no relationship was found between level of income and property crime, which

may explain why no relationship was found between type of residence and property crime.

Level of Income

It was hypothesized that as the level of income increases, the incidence of property crime would increase and the incidence of violent crime would decrease. In terms of overall and property crime, no significant differences were found between persons with difference levels of income. This finding did not coincide with previous research by Hendrick (1996, 1995) and Wright (1995) who found that persons with higher levels of income had the highest rate of personal and household theft.

The current study did show that persons with incomes over \$60,000 per year experienced significantly less violent crime than persons whose incomes were below \$29,999 per year. Overall, persons with lower levels of income experienced 9.9% more violent crime than persons with higher levels of income and this supported the hypothesis that as level of income increases, the incidence of violent crime decreases. This finding supported research by Gartner and Doob (1994), Hendrick (1996), Kong (1994), and Wright (1995) who also found that persons living at lower income levels experienced significantly more violent crime.

Other socio-demographic variables, namely age, area of

Alberta, and disability status, may have been associated with the relationship between income and violent crime. Persons in the current sample with lower income levels also tended to be younger, lived in Edmonton, and were more likely to state that they had a disability. As shown earlier, age, area of Alberta, and disability status were associated with higher rates of violent crime. These factors, along with level of income, likely interact to increase the risk of violent victimization.

Level of Education

It was hypothesized that persons with higher levels of education would experience less overall and violent crime and more property crime than persons with lower levels of education. The current study did not find any significant relationship between level of education and overall, violent, or property crime which did not support the above hypothesis. Previous research by Hendrick (1996, 1995) and Wright (1995) found that higher levels of education were related to higher rates of property crime much like higher levels of income were related to higher levels of property crime. The nonsignificant findings related to education and property crime may have been influenced by the fact that the current study also did not find any significant relationship between level of income and property crime.

Marital Status

It was hypothesized that persons who were single or separated/divorced would experience more overall, violent, and property crime than persons who were married/living in a common-law relationship, or widowed and this hypothesis was partially supported.

The results of the current study showed that persons who were single experienced the highest amount of overall crime followed by persons who were divorced or married. Persons who were widowed experienced the lowest amount of overall crime. These results partially supported previous research by Hendrick (1996, 1995), Ogrodnik (1994), and Wright (1995) who found that persons who were single or divorced had approximately three times higher risk of victimization than persons who were married. The current study found that single persons experienced the most crime, however, no significant difference between the rate of crime for divorced and married participants was found.

These results may be explainable by additional factors such as age and place of residence. Single persons in the current sample were younger compared to married persons and married persons in the sample tended to own rather than rent their own homes. Younger persons and persons who rented their homes were also shown to experience more

overall crime. Thus age and residence factors likely interact with marital status to increase the risk of being a victim of overall crime.

In terms of violent crime, the current study supported the hypothesis that single and divorced persons would experience more violent crime than persons who were married or widowed. Overall, divorced persons experienced roughly 10% more violent crime than married or widowed persons and single participants experienced roughly 9% more violent crime than married or widowed persons. This supported previous research by Ogrodnik (1994) and Wright (1995) which showed that single and divorced persons experienced the most amount of crime.

A possible explanation for the higher rate of violent crime experienced divorced participants could be related to the issue of spousal abuse. It is plausible that divorced participants experienced more spousal abuse than persons living in other types of relationships. Future research would benefit from examining the incidence of spousal abuse and how it relates to marital status and the incidence of violent crime.

In general, currently single (never married or divorced) persons seemed to be more at risk of overall and violent crime than persons who were married or widowed.

This may be due to lifestyle factors (persons who were single tended to engage in more evening activities), as well as age (persons who were single tended to be younger than persons who were married or widowed). Marital status, age, and lifestyle likely interact to influence the risk of overall and violent crime. Marital status alone, however, is still a powerful indicator of risk of criminal victimization.

The relationship between marital status and property crime was also examined. The current study showed that persons who were never married experienced the most property crime followed by persons who were married and persons who were divorced. Persons who were widowed experienced the least amount of property crime. The results did not entirely support the hypothesis that persons who were never married or divorced would experience the most property crime since married persons experienced similar rates of property crime as divorced persons. The current study did however, support the notion that never married persons experienced the most amount of property crime and widowed persons experienced the least amount of property crime. This result concurs with previous research by Hendrick (1996), Ogrodnik (1994) and Wright (1995).

A possible explanation for this finding is likely

related to age. Persons sampled in the current study who were never married tended to be younger than persons who were widowed. The current study also found that younger persons experienced significantly more property crime than older persons. Therefore age and marital status likely interact (as well as stand-alone) to influence the risk of property crime.

Disability Status

It was predicted that persons with disabilities would experience more overall, violent and property crime than persons without disabilities and this hypothesis was partially supported. The current study found that victims who were disabled experienced significantly more violent crime than victims who were non-disabled. Overall, persons with disabilities experienced 15.5% more violent crime than persons without disabilities. The finding that persons with disabilities are at an increased risk of violent victimization had been supported by previous research by Sobsey and Doe (1991), Lyons (1991), and Waxman (1991). The current study provided further evidence for the need for society to protect persons with disabilities from violent crime and abuse. The current findings, however, were likely to be an underestimate of the number of persons with disabilities who had been victimized. Many persons with

severe disabilities were not included in the sample since group care facilities were not contacted. Additionally, persons with severe communication difficulties were unlikely to be the person that answered the phone and completed the survey. Additional research in the area of disability and crime needs to focus on contacting persons with all types and severities of disabilities and discussing their experiences with crime. Research in this area, however, is difficult since many persons with severe handicaps are less likely to be able to accurately describe or even report crime that they had experienced (Garbarino, 1987; Sobsey, 1994).

In terms of the incidence of overall and property crime, no significant differences were found in relation to disability status. Therefore, persons with disabilities experienced similar rates of overall and property crime as persons without disabilities and thus the above mentioned hypothesis was not supported.

Hypotheses concerning type of disability and the rates of overall, violent, and property crime were not included, as previous research has not focused on this type of information. The current study did not find any significant differences between type of disability (agility, mobility, hearing, visions, communication, and thinking) and the rate

of overall or property crime experienced. This may have been due to the fact that there were very few participants with disabilities included in the survey making the sample size too small for accurate statistical analyses. Future research needs to involve a larger sample size and include information concerning the severity of the disability.

The current study, however, did find that persons with thinking disabilities were significantly more likely to be victims of violent crime compared to persons without thinking disabilities. This result may be linked to the notion of severity of disability. Persons with mental handicaps are often viewed as persons with more severe handicaps than persons without mental handicaps. Previous research had shown that persons with severe disabilities were at more risk of abuse and victimization than persons with milder disabilities (Benedict et al., 1990; Verdugo et al., 1995). The current study did not gather information concerning severity of handicap, although it is likely that persons who participated in the current study did not have severe disabilities since all were able to effectively answer the survey questions. Future research, again, would benefit from examining type and severity of disability in relation to crime and its consequences.

Summary

The current study supported and contradicted previous research as well as provided new information concerning crime, the reporting of crime, and the consequences of crime in Alberta. Approximately 39.0% of persons sampled in Alberta had experienced some type of crime in the last 10 years and 10.1% had experienced violent crime in the last 10 years. Twenty-six Percent of those sampled experienced property crime in the last 5 years. Upon comparison of violent and property crime, the majority of crime in Alberta was property related. In terms of the reporting of crime, more property than violent crime tended to be reported to police.

The reporting of violent and property crime was examined in relation to socio-demographic variables. The only significant result that was found was in terms of age and the reporting of violent crime. Younger persons who had been victimized tended to report significantly less violent crime than older persons who had been victimized. No significant differences were found between age and the reporting of property crime.

The consequences of crime (harm and permanent disability) were also examined in relation to socio-demographic variables. No significant results were found in

relation to feelings of harm felt and any socio-demographic variables. In terms of acquired disability due to violent crime, area of Alberta, place of residence (urban or rural), and gender were significantly related to whether a victim was permanently disabled as a result of violent crime. Females as well as persons living in rural areas (other areas of Alberta) experienced the most crime-induced disability.

A large percentage of victims of violent crime stated they felt harmed as a result of the victimization (60.5%) and 36.0% stated they acquired a long-term disability as a result of a violent crime. These consequences of crime were not, however, found to influence whether violent crime was subsequently reported to police.

The incidence of overall, violent, and property crime was examined in relation to socio-demographic variables. Persons living in Edmonton and Calgary as well as persons who were young and single experienced the most overall, violent, and property crime. Males experienced the most amount of overall and property crime compared to females, however males and females did not differ in the rate of violent crime they experienced. Persons who rented their homes were shown to experience significantly more overall and violent crime, however, type of residence was not found

to influence the rate of property crime. Persons with lower levels of income and those who stated they had a disability experienced significantly more violent crime than persons without disabilities and persons with higher levels of income. Disability status and income were not found to influence the rate of overall or property crime. Level of education was not found to influence the incidence of any type of crime.

Chapter 6

Limitations and Implications for Future Research

A problem with research in the area of crime and victimization is that of unreported versus reported crime. Several studies conducted in Canada that examined crime focused solely on reported crime. The crime rates presented in the current study included unreported crime thus the current study is likely to have provided more accurate estimations of the actual crime rate within Alberta.

There are several limitations concerning information collected during the survey interview. Like most survey research, the current study may have included participants that did not disclose all relevant criminal experiences when asked during the survey. It was possible that experiences were forgotten or participants were not willing to reveal certain information or even admit that they had been victimized. Additionally, respondents were volunteers and their responses may have differed from persons who refused to participate in the study.

It was also possible that participants included experiences that would not be considered criminal according to Canadian law, for example, minor misdemeanors that would not have resulted in a criminal indictment. Further research needs to examine the type of experiences that are

not disclosed during victimization surveys as well as procedures to test the accuracy and reliability of participant responses in order to achieve more accurate estimates of crime in a given population.

There were several limitations with the survey used in the current study. One limitation concerning the collection of the data was the use of a telephone survey for persons with disabilities. Many persons with disabilities may not have had access to or the ability to use the telephone. Some persons with severe communicative problems may have been unlikely to answer the telephone, therefore decreasing the likelihood of their participation in the study. Hospitals, nursing homes, group homes, or other institutional settings were not included in the survey. Thus, persons with severe disabilities were likely not included in the study and this may have affected the results related to disability status and crime. Future research in the area of disability and crime needs to include persons with all types and severity of disability in order to accurately examine these variables.

Telephone surveys also include other limitations. There was the possibility that serious crimes were not disclosed to interviewers for reasons of privacy, embarrassment, or fear of disclosure. Persons who were

seriously harmed or disabled as a result of crime may have been unintentionally excluded as some may still be in hospitals, nursing homes, or unable to communicate at the time of the survey via the telephone. This may have affected the results related to the consequences of crime. The survey also excluded information pertaining to persons killed as a result of crime, which likely impacted the results regarding the rate of violent crime in Alberta.

There were several problems concerning questions included in the survey and questions that should have been included but were not addressed. One problem was that the current survey examined only where a victim lived yet the location of the crime was not ascertained. Therefore, a person living in a rural community could have been victimized in an urban community. This crime, however, would have been considered by the survey to be rural since that is where the victim lived. Thus, the survey did not provide accurate information concerning where crime was being committed and if it was subsequently reported. Future research needs to examine not only socio-demographic information of victims but socio-demographic information of the crime (where, when, and how it occurred) to correctly assess the incidence of crime and the rate that the crime is reported.

Another problem with the survey used in the current study was that several terms were not clearly defined. For example, there was no concrete definition of what constituted a disability. One person may have considered him or herself disabled but another person with the same condition may not have considered him or herself disabled. It was found that older persons tended to state more often that they had a disability but this may have been related to aging and not necessarily a developmental or acquired disability. Additionally, the participants were asked if they experienced harm as a result of crime. The term "harm" could have many different meanings and connotations. The survey question related to harm may not have been reliable or valid and this lack of definition could explain why no significant relationships were found between harm felt due to violent crime and any socio-demographic variables.

Another example of poor definition of terms is related to violent and property crime. The current survey did not specify what crimes constituted a violent crime or a property crime. Without this information, the results of the present study can not be accurately compared to previous research. The current study found property crime to occur much less than findings by previous researchers (Hendrick, 1996). Previous research, however, included

break and enter, attempted theft, vandalism, motor vehicle theft, and personal theft (Gartner & Doob, 1994). Since it is unclear as to what crimes were considered property related in the current study, the contradictory results may have been related to lack of definition.

The current survey examined the incidence of overall and violent crime over the last ten years and the rate of property crime over the last five years. Since the time frame was over a long period of time, participants may not have reported to interviewers minor crimes as they may have forgotten them or may have incorrectly judged them beyond the time frame of the survey. Another limitation with the current study was that the reporting of violent crime was examined in the last 10 years and the reporting of property crime was examined in the last 5 years. Since different time periods were examined for each type of crime, a proper comparison of reporting frequency was not possible. Regardless, the current study still found that more respondents reported property crime than violent crime. If property crime was examined over a 10 year period it is likely that the results would have yielded an even larger difference between the number of property crimes reported and the number of violent crimes reported.

The current study examined the incidence of violent

crime, however the severity of crime experienced was not addressed. This information would have been useful in explaining and examining the consequences of crime and feelings of harm felt due to violent crime. For example, the current study found that persons living in Edmonton and Calgary experienced the most amount of violent crime. The types of violent crimes, although higher in frequency, may have been less severe in nature than crime occurring in other areas of Alberta. This would explain why persons sampled in rural areas experienced significantly more devastating and long-lasting consequences as a result of violent crime. Future research would benefit from examining the severity of crime so that social programs can be developed to provide community members with more accurate information concerning the risk of crime in the areas in which they reside.

The current study examined age as a variable in the incidence, reporting, and consequences of crime. A problem with this variable was that the survey gathered age at the time of the survey and not age at the time of the crime. Since participants were asked if they were victims of crime in the last 10 years, the age of the person at the time of the crime could have referred to any time in the last 10 years. Therefore, future research needs to address age at

the time of the crime in order to accurately assess how age affects the rate of reporting and incidence of crime. Overall, however, the study did show that older persons experienced less crime but did not provide information regarding exactly how old the victims tended to be.

Another limitation regarding the socio-demographic variables concerns the variable type of residence. Some participants may have stated they rented or owned their homes although this did not provide information concerning the type of home (apartment or house) that they lived in. For example, young persons who lived with their parents or persons who rented a room in a family home may have stated they rented their home, yet their type of residence differed from persons who lived in an apartment complex. Future research needs to examine not only whether a person owns or rents their home but the type of home (apartment, house, duplex) as well as the location of their home within a given community. Some neighborhoods may be more susceptible to crime, therefore information regarding whether the majority of homes in these areas are owned or rented could provide valuable information regarding crime and type of residence.

Current results indicated that socio-demographic variables played key roles in the types of crimes

participants experienced, however few socio-demographic factors were found to influence whether crime was reported to police. Future research needs to examine not only whether a crime was reported, but the reasons that a person did not report the crime. This would further enhance our understanding of factors that effect whether crime is reported and provide ideas to increase the level of reporting behaviour in society.

Few socio-demographic variables were found to influence the consequences victims experienced as a result of violent crime. In general, all persons who were victimized, regardless of age, marital status, education, lifestyle, or wealth could be seriously or permanently injured as a result of violent crime. The best method of protection is prevention and future research needs to work to develop programs that prevent crime. Lowering the incidence of violent crime will reduce the number of persons that will suffer the lasting consequences of these crimes.

Most studies have examined the incidence and temporary consequences of crime within Canada. This study was one of the few that examined the incidence as well as the long-term consequences of crime within Alberta. This study was also one of the first that examined the rate of crime that

was reported as well as examined socio-demographic variables that may have impacted the number of crimes reported. If researchers can understand how socio-demographic variables influence crime in our society, this information can be used to aid community agencies in helping more persons prevent being victimized and increasing the number of crimes reported to police. More work needs to be done and hopefully the knowledge gained will be used to make our world a safer and more enjoyable place to live.

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Appendix A

Survey Introduction

Survey Introduction

1. Hello, I'm calling (long distance) on behalf of the Population Research Lab at the University of Alberta. My name is _____.
2. I have dialed XXX-XXXX. Is this correct?
3. Your telephone number was selected at random by computer.
4. The lab at the University is currently conducting an important study on current topics such as health, well-being, exercise, smoking, AIDS, and crime.
5. We don't always interview the person who answers the phone. To ensure that we have a 50-50 split of men and women in the study, could you please tell me:

How many women aged 18 or over live at this number?

Number of women _____

And how many men?

Number of men _____

6. This total includes yourself as a member of this household over the age of 18? _____

Requesting an Interview with Male Member of Household

7. (OPTIONAL) For this interview I need to speak with one of the adult male members of the household. May I speak (to the male member / a male member who is available).
8. This total includes yourself as a member of this household over the age of 18? _____

Requesting an Interview with Persons who Answers the Phone

9. I would like to interview you. I'm hoping that now is a good time for you. Your opinions are very important for the research that is being done at the University of Alberta.
10. Before we start, I'd like to assure you that your participation is voluntary and that any information you provide will be kept confidential and anonymous. If there are any questions that you do not wish to answer, please feel free to point these out to me and we'll go on to the next question. You of course have the right to terminate the interview at any time.
11. We do not need your name, so that no one will know your answers to these questions. If you have any questions about the survey, you can call the Study Supervisor (in Edmonton) at 492-2505 for further information.

Appendix B

Search Questions
Re

Research Questions

1. Have you been a victim of crime in the last 10 years?
2. Have you been a victim of crime in the last 5 years?
3. Have you been a victim of crime in the last 2 years?
4. Have you been a victim of crime in the last year?
5. In the last 10 years, have you been a victim of a violent crime, i.e. a crime that involves physical force, harm, or threat of harm?
6. In the last 5 years have you been a victim of a violent crime?
7. As a victim of a violent crime in the last 10 years, did you report the crime to the police or other legal authorities?
8. Were you harmed?
9. Did you sustain any long-term or permanent disability (physical, mental, or emotional)?
10. In the past 5 years, have you been a victim of a property crime?
11. Was the crime reported to the police or other legal authorities?
12. In the past five years, have you been a victim of any other types of crime?
13. Was the crime reported to the police or other legal authorities?

14. Do you have a disability (an impairment or lack of ability to perform an activity that would be normal for most people)?
15. Do you have a disability that limits your mobility?
16. Do you have a disability that limits your agility?
17. Do you have a disability that limits your vision?
18. Do you have a disability that limits your hearing?
19. Do you have a disability that limits your communication?
20. Do you have a disability that limits your thinking?
21. Does any other member of your household have a disability?
22. Which household member(s) has a disability? (select all that apply)
23. Spouse?
24. Child?
25. Parent?
26. Other relative?
27. Non-related person living in your home?
28. Other (please specify)?

Appendix C

Socio-Demographic Questions

Socio-Demographic Questions

1. Area of interview (provincial location)
2. What is your age (age group)
3. Sex of the respondent
4. Do you have a paid job or are you self-employed?
5. Are you unemployed, that is out of work and looking for work?
6. Are you employed full time?
7. Are you retired?
8. Respondents current employment position
9. Respondents previous employment position
10. What is the total income of all the members of this household for this past year before taxes and deduction?
11. What is your own total individual income for this year before taxes and deductions?
12. Do you (or your spouse/partner/parents) presently own or rent this residence?
13. What is your current marital status?
14. What is your highest level of education? This includes complete and incomplete.
15. What is your religion, if any?